



**SITAL**  
LEASING AND FINANCE LIMITED  
(An ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified Company)

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Date:- 12.11.2021

To  
The Head-Listing & Compliances  
Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited  
Vibgyor Towers, 4th floor, Plot No C 62, G - Block,  
Opp. Trident Hotel, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E),  
Mumbai - 400098

**Subject:- Filing of clipping of the Unaudited consolidated Financial Results published in the newspaper for the Quarter and Half Year ended on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 as per SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (SYMBOL: SITAL)**

Dear Sir,

In terms of **SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015**, please find attached herewith copies of Newspapers- Open Search (Hindi Dainik News Paper) and Open Search (English Daily News Paper) dated **12th November, 2021** in which **Unaudited standalone Financial Results** of the Company has been published for the Quarter and Half Year ended on **30th September, 2021** as approved by the Board of Directors of the company in their meeting held on **11th November, 2021**.

You are requested to take on your records and acknowledge the same.

**Thanking You**

**For and on behalf of**  
**Sital Leasing and Finance Limited**

For SITAL LEASING AND FINANCE LTD

  
Director/Authorised Signatory

**Surendra Kumar Jain**  
**Managing Director**  
**DIN: 00530035**

Encl.: a/a



















# OPEN SEARCH

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Scarlett Johansson, Disney...P-8

## News in Breif

### Kerala government suspends senior cop over links with alleged conman



**Thiruvananthapuram, Agency.** The crime branch report said Lakshman illegally interfered in an earlier probe against Mavunkal

and got an investigating officer transferred at the behest of Mavunkal. The Kerala government on Wednesday suspended Inspector-General of Police Gugguloth Lakshman over alleged involvement with antiques dealer Monson Mavunkal and interference in criminal cases to help the, according to the Chief Minister's Office. The decision to suspend the IG, who was in charge of traffic and road safety, was taken by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan after a crime branch probe into Mavunkal's dealings allegedly exposed his links with the senior IPS officer, sources aware of the matter said. Mavunkal was arrested in September this year on charges of pocketing Rs 10 crore from a group of people since 2017 after promising them to make then partners in his antiques business. The crime branch report which was submitted on Monday said Lakshman illegally interfered in an earlier probe against Mavunkal and got an investigating officer transferred at the behest of Mavunkal. Besides, the senior police officer played the role of a middleman in Mavunkal's allegedly fraudulent antique dealings, it said.

### Ashok Gehlot, Sachin Pilot meet top Congress leaders in Delhi



**New Delhi, Agency.** Sachin Pilot, sources said, met AICC general secretary in charge of organisation, K C Venugopal, in the morning and left for Rajasthan. Gehlot met Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and AICC in-charge of Rajasthan Ajay Maken later. The Congress high command on Wednesday is learnt to have nudged Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to carry out a long pending expansion and reshuffle of his Cabinet and include some of Sachin Pilot's loyalists. Both Gehlot and Pilot met senior Congress leaders in Delhi. The issue of a Cabinet reshuffle, political appointments to various boards and corporations and restructuring of the state Congress unit have been hanging fire for long. The Pilot camp has alleged that Gehlot is delaying the Cabinet reshuffle, which, they believe, is the first step towards reconciliation. Pilot, sources said, met AICC general secretary in charge of organisation, K C Venugopal, in the morning and left for Rajasthan. Gehlot met Venugopal, AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and AICC in-charge of Rajasthan Ajay Maken later. Sources said the Congress leadership is keen that the Cabinet reshuffle takes place immediately and some of Pilot's supporters are accommodated. Pilot had met senior leader Rahul Gandhi last month and discussed the much-delayed expansion. While Maken has made multiple visits to Rajasthan in recent months, the reshuffle is yet to happen.

### Delhi HC directs Centre to respond to plea seeking labelling of products as veg/non-veg



**New Delhi, Agency.** In its petition, Ram Gau Raksha Dal argued that it is the fundamental right of citizens to know whether the products they consume are manufactured using components derived from animals. The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to respond within three weeks to a petition seeking strict implementation of rules mandating manufacturers to label their products as vegetarian or non-vegetarian according to the ingredients used in it. "There can be no denying the fact that every person has the right to know, which springs from the Right to Freedom of Speech under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. The issues raised herein have a bearing on Right to Life preserved under Article 21 in as much as a person is entitled to profess and follow his beliefs, which is also protected under Article 25 of the Constitution."

## Sarbat Khalsa-appointed Jathedar not satisfied with Capt's answers, asks him to appear in person



Amritsar, Agency.

However, Mand said he is not satisfied with the ex-CM's answers, adding that he has given the latter more time to provide an explanation. Capt Amarinder Singh has directly responded to the Sarbat Khalsa-appointed Akal Takht Jathedar Dhian Singh Mand for the first time regarding what he had done to take sacrilege and related police firing cases to their conclusive ends as Punjab chief minister. However, Mand said he is not satisfied with the ex-CM's answers, adding that he has given the latter more time to provide an explanation. "Captain Amarinder Singh has sent us information about some FIRs registered during his term as CM. But we already had that and there was nothing new in it," said Mand, adding that the deadline was extended to December 5 after Mand received a correspondent from the former CM. Amarinder has been asked to appear before Akal Takht with more information. Mand had decided to end the 193 days long 'Insaaf Morcha' at Bargari on December 10, 2018, on the request of the Amarinder government after negotiations through Congress Minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa and two MLAs Harminder Singh Gill and Kulbir Zira. Mand said, "The Bargari Morcha was ended on the promise made by Captain Amarinder Singh that justice in sacrilege

cases would be delivered soon. But nothing happened in last three years, following which we had summoned Captain Amarinder Singh. Ministers Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and Tripta Rajinder Singh Bajwa had appeared before the Akal Takht in which they had shifted all the responsibility on Captain Amarinder Singh, who himself never appeared despite the summoning. We had summoned him on November 9. But he has sent a correspondent. We are not satisfied with his answer...He is asked to appear before Akal Takht on December 5." "He should explain to Panth if there was any kind of pressure on him or was there any kind of obstacle in serving justice in sacrilege cases. He is asked to appear in person," he added. Earlier this year, Mand had accused Congress leaders who had been part of negotiations in 2018 of not keeping the promises and asked them to appear before him, after which ministers and MLAs including Randhawa, Bajwa, Zira and Gill had written him a letter and shifted responsibility of sacrilege cases on Amarinder Singh. Bargari Morcha had created pressure on Punjab government to form SITs in the Bargari and police firing cases in 2018. Police action in these cases allegedly slowed down as soon as the morcha ended and inaction in these cases emerged as a big issue during elections.

## 1992 MLA murder case : High Court acquits D P Yadav

Dehradun, Agency.

Yadav was sentenced to life imprisonment in the case by a CBI court six years ago. The Uttarakhand High Court on Wednesday acquitted former Uttar Pradesh minister D P Yadav in the 1992 murder of his mentor and legislator Mahendra Singh Bhati. Yadav was sentenced to life imprisonment in the case by a CBI court six years ago. Acquitting Yadav of all charges, a division bench of Chief Justice Raghendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Alok Kumar Verma said the conviction was based only on surmises and conjectures. "It is devoid of foundational basis which can be established from cogent and convincing evidence. It is, indeed, trite to state that a conviction has to be based on cogent and convincing evidence. Otherwise, the conviction is not a legal one, but a moral one. The rule of law does not permit a moral conviction," read the judgment. Sandeep Tandon, who represented the Central Bureau of Investigation, said they will challenge the High Court decision in the Supreme



Court and get justice for Bhati's family. The judgment on the other accused in the case is pending with the High Court. On September 13, 1992, Bhati was on his way to village Bhangel when seven-eight unknown persons opened fire at his car, killing him and his friend on the spot. At the time of his murder, Bhati was the Janta Dal MLA from Dadri constituency in Ghaziabad. Yadav, a former associate, was an MLA from Bulandshahr who later joined the Samajwadi Party (SP) and reportedly spent some time in the BSP too before forming his own party, Rashtriya Parivartan Dal. The investigation was transferred from the local police to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in August 1993 on a court's direction.

## Kasganj custodial death : Akhilesh demands judicial probe, Rahul asks if human rights exist anymore in UP

New Delhi, Open Search

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "Is there anything called human rights left in Uttar Pradesh?" The Opposition on Wednesday slammed the BJP government over the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh after a youth died in police custody in Kasganj. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "Is there anything called human rights left in Uttar Pradesh?" Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said: "It is clear from incidents like the death of Altaf in Kasganj, Arun Valmiki in Agra, Rajesh Kori in Sultanpur in police custody that the protectors have become devourers. UP tops the country in terms of police custodial death. The law and order situation is in complete disarray under the BJP rule. No one is safe here," she said. Samajwadi President Akhilesh Yadav demanded a judicial probe into the matter. "The death of the youth called for interrogation in the



police station is very suspicious. In the name of laxity, suspension of some policemen is a mere eyewash. In this case, a judicial probe should be held to generate confidence on police in the BJP rule," he said. The SP on Wednesday announced that a delegation led by former MLC Aseem Yadav will visit Kasganj and meet the family members of Altaf on Friday. "The six-member delegation will submit a report to the party state leadership," said an SP leader. Earlier, the SP took to Twitter to attack the Yogi Adityanath government, calling the incident another misdeed of UP's "thoko (trigger-happy) police". "In

UP, under the patronage of the chief minister, criminals and police are committing an encounter of law and order. The guilty policemen should face a murder case and must be punished," the Samajwadi Party said. A 22-year-old detained over a minor going missing in Kasganj district of Uttar Pradesh was found dead at a police station on Tuesday. Five officials of the Kotwali Police Station, including the SHO, were suspended over the incident, with police claiming that Altaf had hanged himself with a string from the hood of his jacket, using a water pipe in a toilet that is a couple of feet from the ground.

## The Russian statement made no mention of collective cooperation on these issues

## After Delhi Declaration, Russia issues own statement, with tweaks

New Delhi, Open Search

As Russia issued its own statement on the NSAs' meeting on Afghanistan, there were at least five differences from the Delhi Declaration a joint statement on the meeting signed by all eight participating countries that was issued hours earlier Wednesday. The meeting, chaired by NSA Ajit Doval, was attended by Russian NSA Nikolai Patrushev. The Indian Express takes a look at how the two statements differed.

\*The Delhi Declaration condemned in the strongest terms all terrorist activities and reaffirmed their firm commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including its financing, the dismantling of terrorist infrastructure and countering radicalisation, "to ensure that Afghanistan would never become a safe haven for global terrorism". The Russian statement said the sides reaffirmed their firm commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms but it did not mention "ensure that Afghanistan would never become a safe haven for global terrorism".



\*The Delhi Declaration emphasised the importance of ensuring that the fundamental rights of women, children and minority

communities are not violated. The Russian statement, while emphasising the importance of ensuring the rights of women, children and

minorities, did not call them "fundamental" rights or that they are "not violated".

\*The Delhi Declaration called for a collective cooperation against the menace of radicalization, extremism, separatism and drug trafficking in the region. The Russian statement made no mention of collective cooperation on these issues.

\*The Delhi Declaration said that recalling the "relevant UN Resolutions on Afghanistan", the participants noted that the UN has a central role to play in Afghanistan and that its continued presence in the country must be "preserved". The Russian statement said they noted that the UN plays a central role in Afghanistan and the permanent UN presence in the country must be "maintained".

\*While the Delhi Declaration said they will hold the next meeting in 2022, the Russian statement did not commit to a timeframe. It said participants agreed to continue interaction on the Afghan issues within this format. It is important to note that Russia is likely to attend the Troika plus meeting with Pakistan, China, US and the Taliban in Islamabad on Thursday a development watched closely by New Delhi.

**Rains wreak havoc in Chennai, leave parts of city submerged**



Chennai, Agency.

Chennai rains have wreaked havoc in the capital city, where localities are inundated, trees uprooted and roads caved in. Commuters have been facing a tough time reaching their destinations. Incessant rains in Tamil Nadu have wreaked havoc in the capital city, where localities are inundated, trees uprooted and roads caved in. Commuters have been facing a tough time reaching their destinations. The continuous downpour is due to a depression in the Bay of Bengal, which lies about 130 kilometres away from the city, is expected to cross the coast of north Tamil Nadu this evening. Chennai traffic police Thursday closed 11 subways, including Vvasarpadi, Ganeshapuram, Ajaxis, Gangu reddy, Madley, Duraiswamy, Palavanthangal, Aranganathan, Villivakkam, Kakhan Bridge. At least seven roads, including KK Nagar-Raja Mannar Salai, Mylapore-Sivaswamy Salai, EVR Salai-Gandhi Irwin to Nair Point, Sembium-jawahar Nagar, KS Peravallur-70 feet road, Pulianthope-Dr Ambedkar Road, Pulianthope High Road, Perambur Barracks Road, Tower clock and Vvasarpadi-Mullai Nagar Bridge, were cordoned off.

**India to work towards zero-emission cars by 2040**

New Delhi, Agency.

The declaration formed a sideshow at the UN climate conference (COP26) currently underway at Glasgow, and is one among the many voluntary initiatives that different sets of countries launch at these meetings. India has joined over 30 other countries in signing a declaration that promises to work towards ensuring that only zero-emission cars and vans are sold by the year 2040. However, this timeline is meant mainly for the developed country signatories, and is not a legally-binding commitment. Emerging markets like India have only promised to work "intensely towards accelerated proliferation and adoption of zero-emission vehicles". The declaration formed a sideshow at the UN climate conference (COP26) currently underway at Glasgow, and is one among the many voluntary initiatives that different sets of countries launch at these meetings. Road transport accounts for about 10 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, and significant reductions from this sector is considered essential to meeting



the goal of keeping global temperature rise within 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels. At the initiative of the UK government, the COP26 host, India has also joined a Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Council that will discuss ways to accelerate the push towards early adoption of zero-emission vehicles. In the declaration, emerging economies like India called on developed countries to "strengthen collaboration and international support offer to facilitate

a global, equitable and just transition" towards zero-emission vehicles. Some major automobile companies, including Ford, General Motors, Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar Land Rover and Volvo, have also signed the declaration, promising to work towards "100 per cent zero emission new car and van sales in leading markets by 2035, or earlier". However, three of the leading car markets United States, China and Japan are not a part of this initiative. A few years earlier, India had announced

that it planned a 100 per cent transition to electric vehicles by the year 2032. Considered an impossible task, the target has since been modified 30 per cent of all passenger cars and 70 per cent of commercial vehicles are now supposed to become electric by 2030. Introduction of electric two-wheeler and three-wheelers is also being pushed in a big way. V Sumantran, a mobility expert and author of 'Faster, Smarter, Greener: The Future of the Car and Urban Mobility', said India's decision to sign the zero-emission vehicle declaration showed the right intent and was in line with other efforts being made to reduce emissions. "This move is well intentioned. We need to earnestly move towards zero-emission vehicles. It is in our interest to do so. We are already moving in that direction. We have articulated a plan to transition 30 per cent of passenger cars and 70 per cent commercial vehicles to electric vehicles by 2030. The declaration at COP26 seems aligned with that. Anything that accelerates this push would be welcome," Sumantran said.

**Eyeing Congress base, Pushkar Dhama seeks to seize ND Tiwari legacy**



Lucknow, Agency.

Opposition Congress was in for a shock on Monday when, on the eve of Uttarakhand's foundation day, the BJP government of Pushkar Singh Dhama announced a list of five names shortlisted for 'Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman-2021'. Leading the list was the name of late Congress stalwart and former chief minister of the hill-state, N D Tiwari. The government announced the name of Tiwari, who was a prominent Brahmin leader and multiple-time chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and completed a full five-year tenure from 2002 as CM of Uttarakhand, carved out of UP only the year before, for the annual state award posthumously for his "social work and public service", and for this contribution in the state's development. On October 17, on the eve of Tiwari's birth and death anniversaries he had died in 2018 within hours of turning 93 Dhama had announced naming Pantnagar industrial estate in Udham Singh Nagar district after Tiwari. The move was seen as an attempt to appropriate the legacy of the late leader from the grand old party. The next day, Dhama had also offered tributes to Tiwari at the CM's residence. While Uttarakhand Congress general secretary (organisation) Mathura Dutt Joshi countered and asked why the government did not honour Tiwari in the last four years, a senior BJP leader said, "This move will create a perception that the Dhama government functions with a positive mindset and regards senior leaders across party lines for their contribution in development of Uttarakhand. Tiwari-ji was a prominent Brahmin face from Kumain, a region where BJP has been traditionally weak." Sources in BJP said that by honouring Tiwari, the party has tried to set three equations in its favour. First, at a time opposition parties in UP are trying to woo Brahmins and accusing the Modi government of "targeting" the community, BJP expects to reap the benefits in the Thakurs versus Brahmins and Kumaon versus Garhwal electoral divisions in Uttarakhand. Second, Pantnagar

is in Kumaon, and Tiwari came from the same region, and BJP wants to shore up its support there. Kumaon has 29 Assembly constituencies and Garhwal, spread over a larger geographical area, sends 41 MLAs to the Assembly. Out of 57 seats it won in 2017, BJP got 34 seats in Garhwal and 23 in Kumaon. The Congress won six seats in Garhwal and five in Kumaon. Third, most people in the state are aware that Harish Rawat, Congress's senior-most leader in the state, was never comfortable with Tiwari as senior leader in the state and had staged protests on issues of "public interests" when the veteran was CM. During 2017 state elections, Tiwari had met then BJP president Amit Shah and announced support to the saffron party, apparently to secure a poll ticket for son Rohit Shekhar, who eventually was not nominated by the party. "But even after his announcing support, Tiwari and his son never met BJP workers. So he was largely known as a Congress leader until his death," a BJP leader in Uttarakhand said. Congress's Mathura Dutt Joshi said, "Tiwari-ji was a pride of Uttarakhand..but the BJP has announced honour for him only when Assembly polls are at the doorstep. This move is politically motivated." Asked how the Congress honoured Tiwari, Joshi said, "Congress made him CM several times in UP, and once in Uttarakhand, and later made him Governor (of Andhra Pradesh). On his birth and death anniversary last month, the party took out a smriti yatra in Haldwani. Programmes were organised across the state." BJP state vice-president Devendra Bhasin said, "The decision to honour Tiwari-ji is not for any political gain. It is a recognition of his contribution in the development of Uttarakhand. After forming a separate state, when then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Uttarakhand, Tiwari was the CM, and on his (Tiwari's) request, a special industrial package was announced for the new state. Special status was also given to Uttarakhand." Besides Tiwari, others conferred the state award are author Ruskin Bond, environmentalist Anil Joshi, folk singer Narendra Singh Negi, and mountaineer Bachendri Pal.

**Pre and post 2019 polls : Facebook memos flag anti-minority post surge**

New Delhi, Agency.

A July 2020 report specifically noted there was a marked rise in such posts in the preceding 18 months, and that the sentiment was "likely to feature" in the coming Assembly elections, including West Bengal. MULTIPLE INTERNAL Facebook reports over the last two years red-flagged an increase in "anti-minority" and "anti-Muslim" rhetoric as "a substantial component" of the 2019 Lok Sabha election campaign. A July 2020 report specifically noted there was a marked rise in such posts in the preceding 18 months, and that the sentiment was "likely to feature" in the coming Assembly elections, including West Bengal. The increase in hate speech and inflammatory content was mostly centred around "themes" of threats of violence, Covid-related misinformation involving minority groups, and "false" reports of Muslims engaging in communal violence. These reports are part of documents disclosed to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and provided to the US Congress in redacted form by the legal counsel of ex-Facebook employee and whistleblower Frances Haugen. The redacted versions received by the US Congress have been reviewed by a consortium of global news organisations including. In one internal report in 2021 before the Assembly elections in Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, now Assam Chief Minister, was flagged in as being party to trafficking inflammatory rumours about "Muslims pursuing biological attacks against Assamese people by using chemical fertilizers to produce liver, kidney and heart disease in Assamese." When asked by The Indian Express about this and whether he knew of his "fans and supporters" indulging in hate-speech, Sarma said he was "not aware of that development". Asked if he was contacted by Facebook flagging the content posted on his page, Sarma said: "I had not received any communication." Another internal Facebook report, titled "Communal Conflict in India", notes that inflammatory content in English, Bengali, and Hindi spiked numerous times and especially in December 2019 and March 2020, coinciding with the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and start of lockdowns enforced to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Despite presence of such content on the platform, the documents reveal,



there was a palpable clash between two internal Facebook teams: those flagging problematic content and those designing algorithms to push content on the newsfeed. To tackle such problematic content, an internal staff group had, in the July 2020 report, suggested various measures such as developing "inflammatory classifiers" to detect and enforce such content in India, improving the platform's image text modelling tools so that such content could be identified more effectively, and building "country specific banks for inflammatory content and harmful misinformation relevant to At Risk Countries (ARCs)". Nearly all these reports place India in the ARC category, where the risk of societal violence from social media posts is more compared to other countries. According to another 2021 Facebook internal report, titled "India Harmful Networks", groups claiming to be affiliated with the Trinamool Congress engaged in coordinated posting of instructions via large messenger groups and then posted these messages across multiple similar groups in an attempt to boost the audience for content which was "often inflammatory," but "usually non-violating". The posts from RSS and BJP affiliated groups, on the other hand, carried a high volume of "love jihad" content with hashtags "linked to publicly-visible Islamophobic content", the internal report noted. Queries sent to the BJP, RSS, and TMC went unanswered. Despite all these red flags, another group of staffers at the social media firm suggested only a "stronger time-bound demotion" of such content. Asked if the social media platform took any measures to implement these recommendations, a spokesperson for Meta Platforms Inc Facebook was rebranded as Meta on October 28 told:

"Our teams were closely tracking the many possible risks associated with the elections in Assam this year, and we proactively put in place a number of emergency measures to reduce the virality of inflammatory comments, particularly videos. Videos featuring inflammatory content were identified as high risk during the election, and we implemented a measure to help prevent these videos from automatically playing in someone's video feed". "On top of our standard practice of removing accounts that repeatedly violate our Community Standards, we also temporarily reduced the distribution of content from accounts that had repeatedly violated our policies," the spokesperson said. On rising hate content, the Meta spokesperson said hate speech against marginalised groups, including Muslims, was on the rise globally. "We have invested significantly in technology to find hate speech in various languages, including Hindi and Bengali. As a result, we have reduced the amount of hate speech that people see by half this year. Today, it's down to 0.03 per cent," the spokesperson added. Not only was Facebook made aware about the nature of content being posted on its platform, but it also discovered, through another study, the impact of posts shared by politicians. In one internal document titled "Effects of Politician Shared Misinformation", examples from India figured as "high-risk misinformation" shared by politicians which led to a "societal impact" of "out-of-context video stirring up anti-Pakistan and anti-Muslim sentiment". The study pointed out that users thought it was "Facebook's responsibility to inform them when their leaders share false information". There was also debate within the company, according to the documents, on what should be done when politicians shared previously debunked content.

**Cabinet decisions : MPLADS restored, Rs 2 crore this fiscal Delhi Police arrest 3 associates of local gangster Rajesh Bawania**

New Delhi, Agency.

Restoration and continuation of MPLADS up to 2025-26 will cost the government Rs 17,417 crore, the Centre said. After suspending the MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) to use the funds in the fight against Covid-19 last year a move criticised by the Opposition the Cabinet Wednesday decided to restore it. However, of the Rs 5 crore that each MP gets under the scheme, only Rs 2 crore will be disbursed in the current financial year. They will get the entire funds from the next financial year. "I am glad to share with you that in view of the improvement in economic scenario, the way economic recovery has taken place and we have seen growth in various sectors as well, a decision has been taken to restore MPLAD Scheme for the remainder period of the fiscal 2021-22." I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said at a Cabinet briefing. The decision comes weeks ahead of the Winter Session of the Parliament. Restoration and continuation of



MPLADS up to 2025-26 will cost the government Rs 17,417 crore, the Centre said. Under the scheme, funded by the Centre, MPs get Rs

5 crore in two instalments a year, which can be used for development work such as creation of community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, in their respective constituencies. Suspension of the scheme last year had evoked sharp reactions from the Opposition. While the Congress said the decision would undermine the role of an MP, the TMC termed the step "whimsical" and "undemocratic" Central govt okays Rs 17,400 cr to CCI for cotton procurement. The government Wednesday approved "committed price support" of Rs 17,408.85 crore for Cotton Corporation of India, the agency responsible for procuring cotton from farmers if prices fall below the MSP, for seven cotton seasons from 2014-15. It also made it mandatory for 100 per cent of foodgrains and 20 per cent of sugar to be packed in jute bags. The decisions were taken at the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs meet headed by PM Narendra Modi.

New Delhi, Agency.

The Delhi Police have arrested three associates of local gangster Rajesh Bawania after a brief exchange of fire in Outer Delhi. The accused were on a bike when the cops spotted them. However, they tried to escape and one of them even shot at the cops. Police said they had received information, late on Wednesday, that members of Bawania's gang will be going to the Bawana area. They're involved in several cases of murder, robbery, extortion and theft among other crimes. Two teams from the Outer North district were sent to arrest them. Brijiendra Yadav, DCP (Outer North), said, "We found them on a bike and tried to stop them. However, they tried to flee from the spot and even shot at us. In retaliation, we fired at them and one of them was injured." The accused have been identified as Manbir (24), Naresh (42) and Madan (26). Rajesh Bawania was arrested in 2014 by the Special Cell of Delhi Police. "He used to call his targets and tell them his full name and give out other details. He would do this on every call so that victims would remember him. He worked with other gangsters like Gogi and extorted money from businessmen in Delhi," an officer said.



No Chhath politics, says Kejriwal, as BJP MPs defy Yamuna order

New Delhi, Agency.



The BJP leadership, including MPs Manoj Tiwari and Parvesh Verma, meanwhile flouted the DDMA order that prohibited Chhath on Yamuna banks. Tiwari along with the party's Delhi unit head Adesh Gupta held a puja on the banks of the river in Sonia Vihar. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday participated in Chhath Puja at East Kidwai Nagar, where he appealed to the opposition not to do politics over the festival, even as several BJP leaders defied an order not to celebrate on the banks of the Yamuna.

Padyatras, small meetings, stops in villages, towns : Cong announces 15-day campaign on price rise

New Delhi, Open Search

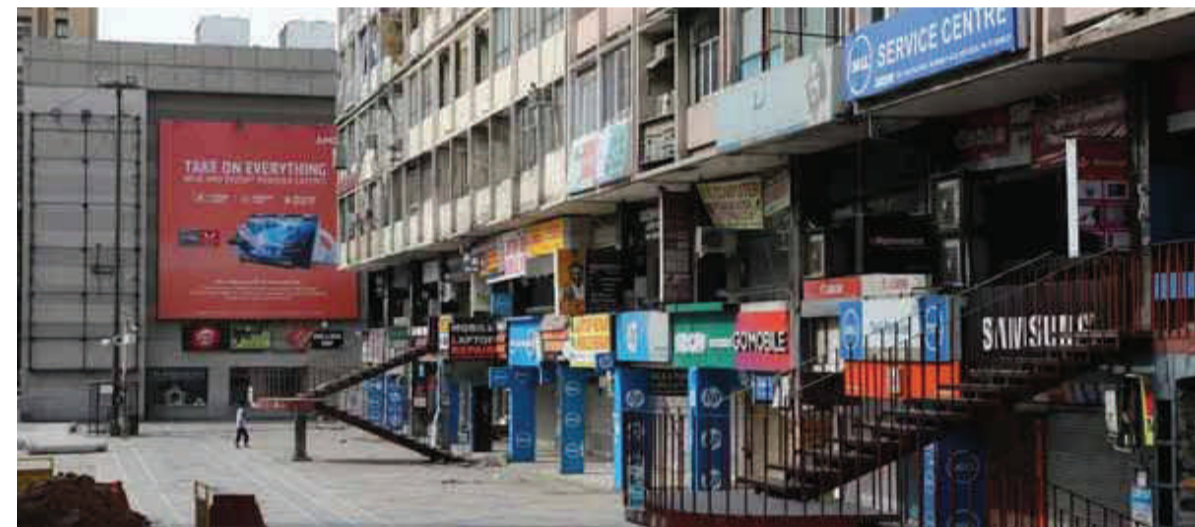
Instead of holding dharnas or rallies, the new mode of campaign will see Congress workers and leaders taking out prabhat pheris. Admitting that its agitations against the government have drawn inadequate public participation, the Congress Wednesday announced padyatras across the country to take its message to the people as part of a 15-day campaign against price rise that begins on November 14.



"The Congress party has felt that the agitations that we undertake... our Congress workers participate in it... but the way the people should be involved in these agitations... that has not happened," Singh said. Instead of holding dharnas or rallies, the new mode of campaign

party is also organising a training camp for leaders across the country in Sevagram, Maharashtra in the run-up to the campaign to educate them about the issues to be raised. The idea is to train 10 delegates each from every Assembly and Parliamentary constituency on the messages the party wants to convey.

'If tomorrow some life is lost in fire, who will be responsible', Delhi HC pulls up SDMC on illegal street vending



New Delhi, Open Search

The high court said that SDMC was not following up on its own statement on moving the Supreme Court about the 95 street vendors who have interim orders in their favour for hawking at the Nehru Place. The court also warned SDMC against using court orders to increase the license fee.

The court also warned SDMC against using court orders to increase the license fee. Observing that commercial places like Nehru Place have become slums now, Delhi High Court on Wednesday said that the officers of South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) are not even bothered to read the court orders and that police officials, despite being deployed to act against unauthorised vendors, are not being guided by the corporation.

orders to increase some rates. Don't use us. We will come down on you with a ton of bricks. Don't spoil our good name. Don't say we are being strict and tough, therefore the rates need to go higher, that should not happen. Some officer will lose his job," it added. The court also questioned SDMC for not disclosing that vendors were keeping their goods at Nehru place even after working hours.

Smog cover over Delhi-NCR; air quality severe amid unhelpful meteorological conditions

New Delhi, Agency.

Green think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) said the ongoing smog episode is a public health emergency. A layer of smog shrouded Delhi-NCR on Thursday and partially blotted out the sun on Chhath Puja as the air quality slipped back into the severe zone with unfavourable meteorological conditions aiding accumulation of pollutants, authorities said.



is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe". An official from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said shallow fog and low temperatures in the morning Delhi recorded the season's lowest temperature of 12.6 degrees Celsius on Thursday trapped pollutants close to the ground and calm winds led to stagnant conditions.

contribution of smoke from farm fires from the middle of October to November 8 was the lowest in four years. "Compared to the first smog episode of the previous four years, the current smog has matched the duration of the first smog of 2018 and 2020 season both lasted six days. If conditions do not improve, it might overtake the 2019 smog that lasted eight days," the CSE said.

Boats and barricades in desperate bid to combat Yamuna foam

New Delhi, Agency.

Attempts were made to raise a temporary barricade-like structure near Kalindi Kunj to prevent the foam from floating further downstream. The Delhi government sprayed water, used boats and tried to erect a makeshift barricade on the Yamuna river Wednesday to "scatter" the foam that had developed over the water.



A total of 15 boats were deployed, to "beat the foam with sticks" and disperse it, said a government official. Boats were also deployed in the river on Tuesday, a senior Delhi Jal Board (DJB) official said, and this had helped to "break up" the foam particles, allowing them to dissolve into water.

NEET toppers from Delhi govt schools : Girl with no doctors in family, boy whose parents didn't attend college

New Delhi, Open Search

The NEET results had been declared by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on November 1. According to an official from the Education Department, 496 students from across these schools have cleared the exam this year. More than 490 Delhi government school children have cleared NEET this year, with Kushal Garg from RPVV Kishan Ganj and Isha Jain from RPVV Surajmal Vihar scoring 700 out of 720.



programme in Pune. The pandemic had not been easy for my parents, but despite everything and in the middle of Covid, they supported me, let me go and helped me buy some clothes to go there," he said. "My aim had been to cross the score of 650, I never thought that getting this rank would be possible," he said.

Last year, 40 students had cleared the exam. However, school head Seema Wadhwa said that a few more steps have to be taken to ensure that the students' journey to medical college is completed. "We will call these 51 students to school and throw a party for them, and the next batch of aspirants will interact with them. They will create a WhatsApp group and help them through every step of the way.

Boats and barricades in desperate bid to combat Yamuna foam

New Delhi, Agency.

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New Delhi, Agency.

On the basis of such analysis, CBSE aims to identify examination centres where the data indicates the existence of malpractices during the conduct of examinations. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will now be using "advanced data analytics" during its examinations to detect cases and centres with a high probability of unfair means.



## Open Search

EDITORIAL

## Looking for Ambedkar in 'Jai Bhim'

Movies based on the real-life struggles of marginalised groups are rare in mainstream Indian cinema. T J Gnanavel's 'Jai Bhim' is amongst the few that engages with issues of identity and institutionalised discrimination with some sincerity. It is based on the true story of the struggle of Parvathi (Sengani in the movie), an Irula woman, to find and secure justice for her husband, who is arrested and tortured in police custody in a false case of theft, only to disappear from custody later. 'Jai Bhim' has a powerful cast with Suriya playing the protagonist, based on the communist lawyer-turned-judge, K Chandru, Lijomol Jose as Sengani and Manikandan as her husband, Rajakannu. The movie is a portrayal of the life, occupation and culture of the Irula tribe, their aspiration for a better life and education, and the daily exclusions, along with torture and mass incarceration, that they face all nested in the deeply hierarchical and illiberal democratic structure of Tamil Nadu. Set in the early 1990s, the movie shows Rajakannu working as a snake catcher in the homes and farms of the very upper-caste landlords who snub and shun him. Yet, the homeless, landless citizenship of the Irulas is not void of hope and draws meaning from their proximity to nature and the protections enshrined in the Constitution. Justice Chandru makes no bones about his communist leanings in real life and this is shown well in the movie by Gnanavel. The symbolism of the red flag with the hammer and sickle, banners and posters, along with images and statues of Karl Marx are found in the background of various scenes. Justice Chandru hunts down evidence for the custodial murder of Rajakannu and his wrongful arrest for theft, while arguing a habeas corpus petition filed by Sengani in the high court. The depiction of the violence and cruelty faced by the incarcerated Rajakannu and his close relatives is gut-wrenching and the pregnant Sengani's quest for justice, despite the trauma, is inspiring. The story unfolds as advocate Chandru argues the case and takes on the mighty apparatus of the state as a good cop (played by Prakash Raj) joins the battle for conscience.

## Why India's green façade is cracking

Christophe Jaffrelot, Hemal Thakker

Last week at the COP 26 in Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India has set a target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. India also updated its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) that have to be met by 2030. Its new pledge includes increasing the country's installed renewable capacity to 500 GW, meeting 50 per cent of its energy requirements from non-fossil fuel sources, reducing carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes and bringing down the carbon emissions intensity of the economy by 45 per cent from 2005 levels. At the COP 21 in Paris, India, the third-largest emitter of carbon dioxide behind China and the US, made similar ambitious announcements and aimed to reduce the economy-wide emissions intensity by 33-35 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030. It also set a target of 40 per cent installed capacity from renewable energy resources and committed to creating a carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, through additional forest and tree cover. Since then, India has made a name for itself globally because of its massive investments in solar energy. In August, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy announced that the country has installed 100 GW of renewable energy capacity. The majority of this 100 GW, about 78 per cent, is due to large-scale wind and solar power projects. While this is a milestone, India is on track to accomplishing only about two-thirds of its planned renewable target of 175 GW installation by 2022. To achieve its new goals, India will need to do more in different directions. For instance, it has a target of achieving 40 GW of green energy from the rooftop solar sector by 2022, but it has not been able to achieve even 20 per cent of that so far. In the transport sector, India has targeted a 30 per cent share of electric vehicles (EV) in new sales for 2030. However, according to the Climate Action Tracker, to be compatible with the Paris Agreement, the share of EV sales needs to be between 80-95 per cent by 2030, and 100 per cent by 2040. India also needs to cut down subsidies to the fossil fuel industry drastically — not the case currently. While in the past seven years, the country has invested Rs 5.2 trillion in renewable energy, the investment in fossil fuel industry, though down by (only) 4 per cent from 2015-19, was Rs 245 trillion. Worse, coal production is estimated to increase to one billion tonnes by 2024 from 716 million tonnes in 2020-21. India is already home to the second-largest coal-fired power plant pipeline in the world. According to the Central Electricity Authority, coal capacity is projected to increase from 202GW in 2021 to 266GW by 2029-30. The Government of India is not actively discouraging such investments. On the contrary, coal subsidies are still 35 per cent higher than the subsidies for renewables and coal-fired power generation receives indirect financial support from the government through income tax exemptions and land acquisition at a preferential rate. In June 2020, the government carried out an auction of 41 coal mining blocks in which private players were allowed to bid for the first time. India's reliance on coal is the main reason for the country not embarking on a serious decarbonisation trajectory. The Climate Action Tracker, an independent scientific analysis that tracks government climate action against the Paris Agreement targets, deems India's performance as "highly insufficient" simply because coal represents about 70 per cent of the country's energy supply. According to a British Petroleum study, in 2040, coal will represent 48 per cent of the primary energy consumption of commercial fuels in India while renewable energy will contribute only 16 per cent. This means if the growth rate of the economy remains the same, the country's carbon dioxide emissions will double to 5 Gt by 2040. India's share of global emissions will increase from 7 per cent today to 14 per cent by 2040. At the 2009 Copenhagen summit, India was part of a coalition of countries including the other emerging economies and the US which was not as interested as Europe (and a few others) in global warming mitigation. In 2015, however, India played a very constructive role, along with Europeans and others, during the COP 21 in Paris. Prime Minister Modi and then French President Francois Hollande initiated a Solar Alliance that was intended to help poor countries to invest in this renewable energy. Since then, New Delhi has acquired a green image, and Western, as well as Indian observers, have talked about PM Modi as a potential global climate leader, capable of setting the agenda on climate-related issues, while also reminding the developed countries that treating nature well comes naturally to Indians. India's green façade now seems to be cracking. Even though New Delhi has invested in renewable energy and announced a net-zero target, there is a gap between the announcements and the ground reality, as is evident from the promotion of coal. Indian officials argue that Western countries are historically responsible for climate change, India's per capita emissions remain very low, growth is the country's priority, and that the rich countries are not spending the \$100 billion they committed at COP 21 to helping the decarbonisation strategies of poor countries (last year only \$ 80 billion was spent). All this is indeed true, and the rich countries need to financially support the global south.

## Why BJP might remain in commanding position for next many decades

Coomi Kapoor

Judging by its huge defeat in West Bengal and its 50 per cent strike rate in the recent national by-elections, the BJP's prospects for next year's assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur appear a little shaky. But at the BJP's recent national executive, Prime Minister Narendra Modi exuded confidence that the party will continue to be in a commanding position. He pointed out that the BJP has an army of committed cadres, while other parties revolve around just one family. (It is another matter that today, the BJP and the government revolve entirely around Modi.) More than Modi's speech, it was the unguarded remark of Prashant Kishor, Mamata Banerjee's campaign handler, which provided the reality check to those who assume that Narendra Modi's days are numbered because of bad governance, ugly efforts at communal polarisation, a disturbing disregard for democratic norms and blatant manipulation of constitutional bodies and investigative agencies to settle scores with opponents. Kishor's assessment that the BJP will remain at the centre of Indian politics and will not go anywhere for the next many decades was a candid analysis by a seasoned and successful pollster who is now in the rival camp. His comments were made in the context of Rahul Gandhi's blithe assumption that it is just a matter of time before the voters throw out Modi. In the past, swings for and against a political party were a recurring phenomenon in bi-polar contests, since anti-incumbency was a major factor in voter trends. Kishor comprehends what Rahul still fails to grasp. Modi, ably assisted by Amit Shah, has radically altered the rules of the game in India's politics. The laidback gentlemanly Westminster style of government, the model at the time of Independence, has virtually withered away. The BJP is not a party that springs to life only during the poll season. It is a ruthless, full-time election machine, crushing those who stand in its way and uprooting all dissent, even within its own ranks. Political considerations contribute to most important government decisions. And if the government has messed up in demonetisation or managing the coronavirus pandemic, it has compensated by delivering on a number of schemes of individual benefit to the average Indian voter, whether building millions of toilets or providing running water. True, the BJP

he laidback gentlemanly Westminster style of government, the model at the time of Independence, has virtually withered away. The BJP is not a party that springs to life only during the poll season.



may lose in some of the forthcoming state assembly polls, but the party's focus is mainly on Uttar Pradesh. The BJP will leave no stone unturned to ensure that it retains control of India's largest state, even if this entails elevating the status of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, no favourite of BJP's master strategist Shah, and about whom even Modi has reservations, for not displaying the subservience expected from model BJP CMs. The ruling party has yet another trump card. Rahul Gandhi may be the BJP's favourite whipping boy when it comes to lampooning the opposition, but he is also one of Modi's biggest assets. The BJP believes that with the Gandhis as the main opposition, Modi is assured a comfortable run. Recent events in Punjab, where the Gandhis totally misjudged the maverick Navjot Singh Sidhu and unnecessarily humiliated an old warhorse like Amarinder Singh, reinforce the perception that the family today is unqualified to lead the Congress. Incidentally, the Grand Old Party was not founded by the Gandhis' ancestors as most of our younger generation assume, but by stalwarts of the freedom movement such as Allan Octavian Hume and Dadabhai Naoroji. During her confrontation with the UP police after the recent farmers' tragedy in Lakhimpur Kheri, Priyanka Gandhi's feisty, theatrical spirit dominated the news cycle for a few days. But are such well-publicised histrionics and expressions of sympathy for the downtrodden, a defining characteristic of her legendary grandmother Indira Gandhi, enough to save the Congress today?

Priyanka has complete charge of the Congress's UP wing, but with little remaining of the party organisation at the grassroots, it makes better sense to join forces with other opposition parties, most notably the Samajwadi Party, rather than sniping at them. Far from responding to the growing rumbles in the party led by the G-23 letter writers at the CWC meet last month, the Gandhis assumed they could cock a snook at the legitimate

demand for a full-time president. Rahul Gandhi made clear that he would formally take over the reins of the party only at a time of his choosing. Meanwhile, the drift in the party continues. His mother Sonia Gandhi remains notional interim president though her health does not permit her to play an active role. Rahul may wax eloquent on the Modi government flouting the Constitution and democratic norms, but he has been equally cavalier in respecting his own party's constitution. Internal party elections have not been held since 1998. Unlike Sonia, Rahul does not bother to consult experienced party elders. Driven by whimsical likes and dislikes, he is cocooned from getting genuine feedback. For instance, unilaterally inducting leftist radicals like Kanhaiya Kumar and Jignesh Mevani did not go down well with the party old-timers who feel overlooked for political lightweights and are uncomfortable with a centrist ideology's lurch towards the radical left. The rapid attrition in the Congress illustrates the level of disillusionment. It is not just genuine Congresspersons who are getting restless, even the Opposition appears frustrated. They do not see Rahul as a credible alternative to a campaign-savvy Modi in the 2024 general elections. Banerjee has already started extending the TMC's geographical boundaries by successfully wooing discontented Congresspersons in Goa, Tripura and Meghalaya. Sharad Pawar's NCP is similarly on an expansion drive at the expense of the Congress. And the AAP keeps nibbling at the Congress's vote share. A split in the Congress in some form is inevitable in the near future, with the Gandhis' refusal to relinquish their position as the chief challenger to the Modi behemoth. Rahul does not seem to comprehend that by refusing to step aside and renounce the claim to the post of PM-in-waiting, he may be doing a grave disservice to the cause. The Gandhis could be the roadblock to the emergence of a viable alternative to the ruling party.

## Virat Kohli and Temba Bavuma have stood up for what counts

Sandeep Dwivedi

Their teams didn't finish anywhere near the top, nor did they stand out as batsmen. But two captains India's Virat Kohli and South Africa's Temba Bavuma grew in stature at this T20 World Cup. Without bulking up their run tally, they added heft to their character and weight to their voice. In years to come, whenever they walk into the sunset, cricket chroniclers are sure to dedicate mentions to the statesman-like articulations by Kohli and Bavuma this past fortnight. They broke away from cricket's age-old "boys played well" refrain and showed that there were at least a couple of sporting icons aware of real issues outside mammoth stadiums. The two men in their early 30s went beyond the narrow dressing-room definition of camaraderie: Going hoarse while singing the team song or putting arms around the next guy in a huddle. When the mob came banging on the door, shouting their mates' names, both Kohli and Bavuma were brave enough to step out. One confronted them, the other played peacenik. It wasn't easy. Past greats from their countries have remained spectacularly silent, failing to truly represent their respective rainbow nations. In India and South Africa, the politics of polarisation, and sport aren't just married, they are soulmates since birth. If "race" is a hot button no one dares to press in South Africa, for India it is religion. Both Kohli and Bavuma knew what they were getting into when they sat at the press conference. Still, they spoke. Kohli is a diehard fan of 145-plus quicks who can get India rare and precious away wins. Mohammad Shami has a heavy ball, a devilish bouncer, a scissoring in-cutter that can snap the stumps or cut the batsman in half. He also has the captain's love. Kohli's nickname for Shami on the field is "Lala". A couple of years back at a Cape Town Test, his voice from the slips held a childlike glee when Shami's ball would take off from the lively turf and



make batsmen hop. "Lala, great bowling," would echo around the Table Mountain. Shami would smile, turn back, eager to impress his captain again this time with a wicket. So, when Lala was targeted for his faith in online posts after India's loss to Pakistan, Kohli couldn't look the other way. Not heeding the media manager's intervention, the Indian captain took on the trolls the same way his new-ball bowler would charge at the opposition openers. "Attacking someone over their religion is the most pathetic thing that a human being can do." It was a key to the lock in a long, heartfelt discourse. For the first time ever, someone flagged that age-old obnoxious behaviour pattern of fans. And when Kohli said, "We stand by him fully ... Our brotherhood... nothing can be shaken", you believed. It wasn't some lame cliché. India didn't seem ready for this. Those on both sides of the ideological divide seemed confused. Kohli, by breaking the mould, didn't fit into any stereotype, so the anger bubbled. The woke crowd says it was too little, too late and others hinted that defending Shami wasn't smart. In an article, 'Dear Virat Kohli, Stick To Cricket Only, Please', Swarajya magazine wrote: "The problem with Kohli is he lends himself for all the politically charged narratives without being smart enough to understand them. It makes him come out as a hypocrite. His teammates Ravindra Jadeja and Suresh Raina have been attacked for their caste by the same trolls who now shed crocodile tears for Shami. But he

didn't even voice a single word in their support... Maybe, Kohli wouldn't have been panned so badly on Shami if his team hadn't bent the knee for Black Lives Matter before the game." Will Kohli continue to speak out or will his baiters come around? Rarely has a cricketer superstar given a nation such a dilemma. The tournament also saw Bavuma face reporters with not much cricket on their minds. Quinton de Kock, a white cricketer from a nation with a history of institutional racial segregation, had refused to take a knee, the BLM-inspired posture of protest. Bavuma, a rare batting prodigy to emerge from a township outside Cape Town, the country's first-ever full-time black captain, was under the spotlight. You felt for the 5'3" overly polite man, who sounds like a shy child being forced to recite nursery rhymes in front of guests. Bavuma needed no booming voice, his words had substance. He could have taken the easy path, but he opted for the correct one. Expected to do for cricket what Siya Kolisi, the first-ever black to lead the Springboks, did for rugby in the townships, he passed the test. Avoiding the question would have added intrigue, amplified black-white mistrust. He stood by his close friend, opting to be colour blind. When de Kock's stand seemed incorrigibly insensitive, Bavuma spoke of calm and conversations. He didn't rush to pass judgement. A South African journalist with apparent disbelief in his tone, asked: "How does it feel when someone can't do something as simple

and as basic as taking the knee?" Bavuma then spoke lines that would have made the founding fathers of post-apartheid South Africa proud. He offered a dignified objection. "I don't think it is that simple as just taking a knee." That was the prelude. "We have to appreciate that we live in a country like South Africa that has its own past, that is diverse in its views... decisions that we take, things that we support, are based on our own convictions. As much as we are a team... outside of that we still live our own lives and those lives are different by the very nature that we live in South Africa. My beliefs, the way that I see things, is shaped by my own experience and background, and so is the other person's. If there is a disagreement in terms of beliefs, in terms of views, that's why we have those hard conversations. Through those conversations, we will be able to get the comfort to accept the other person's decision. I can't force anyone to see things the way I do, neither can they force me to." It's reassuring to hear of reconciliation and harmony from men who come from areas that aren't exactly race/religion-neutral. Kohli grew up in West Delhi, a part of the capital that hosted victims of a country's brutal religion-based division. Post Partition, the place has witnessed gruesome religious riots. Meanwhile, Bavuma's hometown has seen the worst of the apartheid era. At the end of the Cape Town Test where Kohli kept asking Lala to let it rip, I spent a day at Langa, the black township where Bavuma enjoys cult status. Centuries of discrimination by a white minority loom large in this poor neighbourhood with the old pigeonhole slums a reminder of the apartheid era. Not far from Bavuma's home in Langa is the Sharpeville massacre memorial. In 1960, 69 black anti-apartheid protestors were killed by police bullets here. Kohli and Bavuma didn't allow the surroundings to harness biases in them. And for them, watching a teammate's back was a far bigger responsibility than refusing a single early in the over during a hostile spell.

## COP26 draft agreement calls on developed world to double its contribution

Glasgow, Agency.

The first draft of the expected agreement from Glasgow, released on Wednesday morning, asks developed countries to double their financial contribution for adaptation efforts in the developing world, and, for the first time, includes a call for eliminating coal and subsidies for fossil fuels. The draft "notes with regret" the failure of developed countries to deliver on their promise to mobilise \$100 billion in climate finance per year from 2020, and "acknowledges the growing need" of developing countries due to a rising frequency in climate change impacts as well as their "increased indebtedness" due to the pandemic. It therefore calls for greater support through grants or other "highly concessional forms of finance" to be made available but does not mention any minimum amount that should be raised. Some developing countries and the Africa group had, a day earlier, asked the developed countries to increase the scale of international climate finance to at least \$1.3 trillion by 2030 from the current target of \$100 billion. On Wednesday, the BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) once again called for an urgent delivery of \$100 billion and began discussions on deciding the new enhanced target for climate finance in the post-2025 period. "... (BASIC) Ministers are concerned that climate finance provided by developed countries has fallen short of the \$100 billion per year commitment by 2020 and that finance tends to be provided with unilateral conditionality and eligibility criteria, as well as in the form of loans, rather than grants, which aggravates the debt crisis," BASIC ministers said in a joint statement.



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# UN slaps sanctions on three leading Houthi rebels in Yemen

United Nations, Agency.

According to the UN listing, Al-Ghamari "plays the leading role in orchestrating the Houthis' military efforts that are directly threatening the peace, security and stability of Yemen, including in Marib. The UN Security Council has slapped sanctions on three Houthi rebels linked to cross-border attacks from Yemen into Saudi Arabia and to fighting in the government's last stronghold in the country's north. The United Kingdom said Wednesday it proposed the sanctions because the attacks into Saudi Arabia have killed and wounded civilians and because the Houthi offense in the central desert city of Marib has sought to cut off access to humanitarian aid and includes the use of child soldiers. The three rebels added to the UN sanctions blacklist are Houthi chief of general staff Muhammad Abd Al-Karim Al-Ghamari, assistant defense minister Saleh Mesfer Saleh Al Shaer and Yusuf Al-Madani, a prominent leader of Houthi forces.

According to the UN listing, Al-Ghamari "plays the leading role in orchestrating the Houthis' military efforts that are directly threatening the peace, security and stability of Yemen, including in Marib, as well as cross-border attacks against Saudi Arabia." Al Shaer, who is in charge of logistics, "assisted the Houthis in acquiring



smuggled arms and weapons," and as "Judicial Custodian" he was "directly involved in the widespread and unlawful appropriation of assets and entities owned by private individuals under arrest by the Houthis or forced to take refuge outside of Yemen," the UN said. It said Al-Madani is "commander of forces in Hodeida, Hajjah, Al

Mahwit, and Raymah" engaged in activities threatening the peace, security and stability of Yemen. The UN sanctions order all countries to immediately freeze the assets of the three Houthis and impose a travel ban on them. Their addition brings the number of Yemenis under UN sanctions to nine, including Abdel-Malek al-Houthi, leader of the Houthi movement, and Yemen's former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, who reportedly died in December 2017. Yemen has been convulsed by civil war since 2014, when Iran-backed Houthi rebels took control of the capital of Sanaa and much of the northern part of the country, forcing the internationally recognized government to flee to the south, then to Saudi Arabia. A Saudi-led coalition entered the war in March 2015, backed by the United States, to try restore President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to power. Despite a relentless air campaign and ground fighting, the war has deteriorated largely into a stalemate and spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The U.S. has since suspended its direct involvement in the conflict. In early 2020, the Houthis launched an offensive in the mostly government-held Marib province that has cost the lives of thousands of young people and left thousands of displaced civilians living in constant fear of violence and having to move again.

## Bangladeshi film 'No Ground Beneath the Feet' selected for the international competition section of IFFI, Goa

Dhaka, Agency

Bangladeshi film 'Paayer Tolay Mati Nai' (No Ground Beneath the Feet) directed by Mohammad Rabby Mridha has been included in the international competition section of the 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held at Goa between 20-28 November.

'Paayer Tolay Mati Nai' is Bangladeshi director Mohammad Rabby Mridha's feature debut. It



stars Mostafa Monwar, Priyam Archi and Dipanita Martin.

The film narrates the story of Saiful who is an ambulance driver in Dhaka.

He experiences death on a daily basis but poverty is his biggest challenge as his family faces shrinking resources with river erosion destroying their land in the village. His second wife working abroad blames him for not buying her a return ticket. The film depicts the struggle of a person driven to the brink due to the stress caused by poverty further aggravated by natural disasters caused by climate change.

Earlier, this film was

selected for the 26th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) held at Haundae, Busan in South Korea from 6-15 October. It was included in the section named 'A Window on Asian Cinema' of the festival.

Best of the feature length films from all over the world are selected to compete in the international competition section of IFFI. It is one of the most important sections of festival that feature some of the best films of the year, said

an official press release of IFFI.

'Paayer Tolay Mati Nai' will compete with 14 other films for the Golden Peacock and other awards like Best Director, Best Actor (male), Best Actor (female) and Special Jury Award of the festival.

The best film in the category selected for the Golden Peacock award carries a cash prize of Rs. 40 lakhs to be shared equally between the Director and Producer.

## Pak Opposition slams Imran Khan for not informing parliament on giving air corridor to US

Islamabad, Agency

The Opposition in Pakistan Senate has slammed Prime Minister Imran Khan-led government for not keeping the parliament in loop on the decision of giving air corridor to the US and instead the information was given by the US Congress that Islamabad was in talks

with the US on the matter. According to a report by Dawn, Former Senate chairman and PPP leader Mian Raza Rabbani on Wednesday said the parliament was not taken into confidence on a decision on giving air corridor to the United States and the information came from the US Congress that Pakistan was

in talks with the US on giving air corridor, whereas a resolution was adopted at a joint sitting in 2012 on the terms of engagements that Pakistan would not give air corridor to the US. He also lashed out at the PM for holding negotiations with Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) without the authorisation by the parliament.

## Pashupatinath-Kashi Vishwanath Motorcycle Rally flagged off



Kathmandu, Agency

The Pashupatinath-Kashi Vishwanath Amrit Mahotsav Motorcycle Rally was flagged off on Thursday jointly by Nepalese Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Prem Bahadur Ale and Indian Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra from the Pashupatinath Temple.

The rally was flagged off in the august presence of the Venerable Chief Priest Mool Bhatta of the Temple, who blessed the participants before they set out on the journey. Nearly 50 Indian and Nepali motorbike enthusiasts are participating in the rally.

The rally is aimed at showcasing the profound and timeless people-to-people connect between India and Nepal and further strengthen mutual cultural relations, an Embassy of India press release said. The rally is also intended to increase awareness among youth about the precious shared religious and cultural heritage of our two great countries. In his remarks Minister Ale spoke about the age-old cultural heritage and civilizational links between India and Nepal and wished the participants of the rally success in their journey. Ambassador Kwatra in his remarks spoke about the special association between

Kathmandu and Kashi and the role played by the two ancient temples - Pashupatinath and Kashi Vishwanath - in bringing people of the two countries together.

Ambassador Kwatra also urged the youth of India and Nepal to cherish and preserve this shared cultural wealth. The participants of the rally would visit Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi on November 13 and perform puja and offer 'Swachhata Shramdan' at Dashashvamedha ghat to spread the message of cleanliness. During the journey, the rally would also cross several historically important places: Motihari - where Mahatma Gandhi launched 'Champaran Satyagraha' during India's freedom struggle, Sarnath - the city where Mahatma Buddha delivered his first sermon, and Goraknath Math - a temple highly revered and visited by people from both India and Nepal.

The rally is organized by Embassy of India, Kathmandu in collaboration with Royal Enfield Kathmandu as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independent India and the history of remarkable progress of its people.

### SHRI NIWAS LEASING AND FINANCE LIMITED

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Ph: 9891709895,

Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter & Half Year Ended 30.09.2021					
S.No.	Particulars	For the Current Year		For the Corresponding Quarter Ended	
		01.07.2021 to 30.09.2021	01.04.2021 to 30.09.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020	01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from operation	7.23	14.47	7.73	28.71
2	Net Profit / Loss for the period before tax and exceptional items	5.63	7.28	6.20	16.20
3	Net Profit/ Loss for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	(5.73)	(4.09)	6.20	5.03
4	Net Profit/ Loss for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	(5.73)	(4.09)	6.20	0.81
5	Total Comprehensive Income/ Loss for the period (comprising profit/ loss for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income/ loss (after tax))	(5.73)	(4.09)	6.20	0.81
6	Paid up equity share capital	399.70	399.70	399.70	399.70
7	Earning per share (of Rs. 10/- each) after exceptional item Basic & Diluted	(0.01)	(0.01)	0.02	0.00

#### Note

- The above unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter and Half Year ended September 30, 2021 were reviewed by the Audit Committee at their meeting and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on November 11, 2021.
- The above is an extract of Unaudited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Financial Results are available in the Company's website (www.shriniwasleasingfinance.com).

For and on behalf of board of directors of SHRI NIWAS LEASING AND FINANCE LTD.

Date: 11-11-2021  
Place: New Delhi

RAJINI TANWAR  
(MANAGING DIRECTOR)  
DIN : 08201251

### SITAL LEASING AND FINANCE LIMITED

CIN: L65910HR1983PLC050169  
Regd. Off: Office No. 322, 3rd Floor, SS Plaza, Commercial Complex, Mayfield Garden, Sector-47, Gurugram-122001  
Corp Off: 16/121-122, Jain Bhawan, Faiz Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005  
Email Id : sitaleasing83@gmail.com, Website: www.sitaleasingfinance.com  
Ph: 9891709895

Consolidated Unaudited Financial Result for the Quarter and Half Year Ended 30.09.2021					
S.No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 30th September, 2021	Half year ended 30th September, 2021	Corresponding Quarter ended 30th September, 2020	Previous year ended 31st March, 2021
			01.07.2021 to 30.09.2021	01.04.2021 to 30.09.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from operation	48.97	97.40	38.33	166.77
2	Net Profit/ Loss for the period before tax and exception items	44.79	87.86	34.29	110.27
3	Net Profit/ Loss for the period before tax (after exception items)	44.79	87.86	34.29	112.02
4	Net Profit/ Loss for the period after tax (after exception items)	45.26	88.33	36.16	81.13
5	Total Comprehensive Income/ Loss for the period (comprising profit/ loss for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income/ loss (after tax))	45.26	88.33	36.16	81.13
6	Paid up equity share capital	6,125.74	6,125.74	6,125.74	6,125.74
7	Earning per share (of Rs. 1/- each) after exception item Basic & Diluted	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01

#### Note

- The above Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter and Half year ended September 30, 2021 were reviewed by the Audit Committee at the meeting held on November 11, 2021 and approved by the Board of Directors and taken on record at the meeting held on November 11, 2021.
- The above is an extract of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Standalone Financial Results are available in the Company's website (www.sitaleasingfinance.com) and also available on the website of MSEI limited at www.msei.in.

For and on behalf of board of directors of SITAL LEASING AND FINANCE LIMITED  
Date: 11-11-2021  
Place: New Delhi

SURENDRA KUMAR JAIN  
(MANAGING DIRECTOR)  
DIN : 00530035

### SITAL LEASING AND FINANCE LIMITED

CIN: L65910HR1983PLC050169  
Regd. Off: Office No. 322, 3rd Floor, SS Plaza, Commercial Complex, Mayfield Garden, Sector-47, Gurugram-122001  
Corp Off: 16/121-122, Jain Bhawan, Faiz Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005  
Email Id : sitaleasing83@gmail.com, Website: www.sitaleasingfinance.com  
Ph: 9891709895

Standalone Unaudited Financial Result for the Quarter and Half Year Ended 30.09.2021					
S.No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 30th September, 2021	Half year ended 30th September, 2021	Corresponding Quarter ended 30th September, 2020	Previous year ended 31st March, 2021
			01.07.2021 to 30.09.2021	01.04.2021 to 30.09.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from operation	48.97	97.40	38.33	166.77
2	Net Profit/ Loss for the period before tax and exception items	44.79	87.86	34.29	110.27
3	Net Profit/ Loss for the period before tax (after exception items)	44.79	87.86	34.29	112.02
4	Net Profit/ Loss for the period after tax (after exception items)	44.79	87.86	36.16	81.13
5	Total Comprehensive Income/ Loss for the period (comprising profit/ loss for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income/ loss (after tax))	44.79	87.86	36.16	81.13
6	Paid up equity share capital	6,125.74	6,125.74	6,125.74	6,125.74
7	Earning per share (of Rs. 1/- each) after exception item Basic & Diluted	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01

#### Note

- The above Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Half year ended September 30, 2021 were reviewed by the Audit Committee at the meeting held on November 11, 2021 and approved by the Board of Directors and taken on record at the meeting held on November 11, 2021.
- The above is an extract of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results are available in the Company's website (www.sitaleasingfinance.com) and also available on the website of MSEI limited at www.msei.in.

For and on behalf of board of directors of SITAL LEASING AND FINANCE LIMITED  
Date: 11-11-2021  
Place: New Delhi

SURENDRA KUMAR JAIN  
(MANAGING DIRECTOR)  
DIN : 00530035

## Bairstow finds himself in boundary drama; Kane Williamson marshalls his troops to reach first World T20 Final

New Delhi, Agency.

New Zealand win thrilling semifinal by 5 wickets, guided by Neesham, Mitchell heroics. A wicket-keeper since his junior days, Johnny Bairstow has spent many hours diving around on the field. But here he was playing probably the most important T20 game of his life and England's fortunes depended on his diving catch. But this was cricket. Pardon the pun, there was a catch. And he was on the boundary ropes. Had Jimmy Neesham hit the ball a bit harder, Bairstow would have merely watched the ball sail over the fence. If the shot was slightly less powerful, he wouldn't have to dive. This was a cruel skier, it lingered over the rope for a while and the stadium watched Bairstow with open mouth. Will it drop in or out? Will Bairstow catch it or not? He dived, he got the ball in his hands but his knee touched the boundary rope. This was a game of small margins. New Zealand had won by a few millimeters. There were two things Daryl Mitchell did for which he needs appreciation beyond the big hits. He could have stolen a run, and most batsman would have done, with the team still needing 34 off 18. But from the non-striker's end he turned down Jimmy Neesham's call because he felt he had got in the way of Adil Rashid, the bowler. A lovely moment in the white heat of a high pressure game. Once he found his timing and his bat started booming towards the business end of the innings, Mitchell was all grace when he hit the winning runs. He had got the full toss from Chris Woakes to the backward square-leg boundary to finish the game. And then all the pent up adrenalin came rushing out. Being the son of a Haka-dancing All Black John, a victory scream was par for the course.



## Wrestler, brother shot in Sonapat, mother injured; accused coach on the run

Chandigarh, Agency.

The mother, Dhanpati, alleged that the coach Pawan, who is also the owner of the academy, had opened fire at them after her daughter accused him of harassing her. A 20-year-old wrestler and her 18-year-old brother were shot dead Wednesday afternoon at a wrestling academy in Halalpur village of Haryana's Sonapat, allegedly by her coach and his accomplices, police said. The mother of the victims, Nisha Dahiya and Suraj Dahiya, was also shot at and is undergoing treatment at PGIMS in Rohtak, police said. The victims' father, who is an Inspector in the CRPF and posted in Srinagar, has been informed about the incident that occurred at around 2 pm. In a statement to police, the mother, Dhanpati, alleged that the coach, Pawan, who is also the owner of the academy, had opened fire at them after her daughter accused him of harassing her. Mayank Gupta, Assistant Superintendent of Police (Kharkhoda), said: "Prima facie, the main suspect is Pawan, who is the coach, and some of his aides. The accused are absconding and we are making efforts to trace them. The academy's name is Sushil Kumar Academy, but we have found no links with the Olympics wrestler. After the incident, a group of irate villagers set fire to the academy." Pawan hails from Baland in Rohtak, police said. "The coach Pawan was allegedly harassing the girl and she called her brother and mother to the spot. Pawan was accompanied by his wife and 2-3 relatives, who fled after shooting the three. The girl had been training at the academy for the



last three years," said Inspector Karamjeet Singh, SHO, Kharkhoda. Meanwhile, with initial reports mistakenly identifying the victim as the World U-23 bronze medallist wrestler Nisha Dahiya, the junior international issued a statement saying that she is "okay" and at UP's Gonda for the senior national championship. In her statement, the victims' mother Dhanpati stated that her daughter had informed her earlier that Pawan often misbehaved with her. "Despite discussing the issue with him several times, he did not mend his ways. This morning, as per her routine, my daughter had gone to the academy for training and later returned home. At 1 pm, she went to the academy again. Then, we got a call from Pawan saying Nisha was not feeling well, and he asked us to take her home," she said in the statement. The mother said that

she and her son rushed to the academy on a motorcycle and "saw Pawan, his wife and at least two of their aides rush towards Nisha near the main gate". "Nisha told me that Pawan had harassed her and threatened to kill her and her family if she told anyone. Suddenly, Pawan pulled out a gun and fired multiple bullets at my daughter. She collapsed after sustaining gunshot wounds near the gate. My son and I ran in different directions. The accused got hold of me...and shot me. They chased my son, who was running towards the village. I saw them firing several bullets, which hit him and he died on the spot," Dhanpati said in her statement. "Pawan and his aides removed the CCTV camera at the academy and near the village road before absconding," said Deepak, Nisha's cousin. Police, however, said the motive behind the killings is yet to be established and that four teams from the Crime Branch were searching for the accused. Relatives of Nisha said she had started wrestling while at school and had won a silver medal in the All India University Inter-Wrestling Tournament in 2018. According to local residents and coaches at wrestling academies nearby, Pawan had opened the academy in the village about five years ago and was training about 30 trainees. While the academy has been named after two-time Olympics medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar, Kumar's father-in-law and 1982 Asian Games champion wrestler Satpal Singh told that it is "not being run by Kumar or any of his family members" or associates.

## Growing up on rugby circuit, how Daryl Mitchell became a world class cricketer

New Delhi, Agency.

Mitchell, on Wednesday, made his cricketing journey more rewarding by guiding New Zealand to the World T20 final. His 47 ball 72 and his late six hitting steak gave him the Man of the Match award. Daryl Mitchell's first cricketing memory is of the Lord's. The Mitchell household was then shuttling between London and Manchester, where his father, John, was coaching English rugby sides, Sales and Wasps. And they would often drive around the stadium, and his father would tell him that it's the most historic cricket ground in the world. Nothing specifically registered in his mind, except his father's words and the architectural grandeur. It's later, when he blossomed into a fine cricketer, that he realised the glow of his first cricketing memory. Twenty five years later, it turned out to be his temporary home when Middlesex acquired his services. "I felt emotional, and I still remember we used to drive past [Lord's] and all of that as a little kid. I think I was about five years old, so it was pretty cool," he told stuff.co.nz. Mitchell, on Wednesday, made his cricketing journey more rewarding by guiding New Zealand to the World T20 final. His 47 ball 72 and his late six hitting steak gave him the Man of the Match award in the tense semi final against England. Mitchell has had homes around the world. It was another coaching stint of his father that shaped his cricketing career. When he was about 16, his father shifted to Perth to coach Western Force. While his father was busy resurrecting the club and making it a powerhouse—the side beat all Australian Super 14 rivals in 2009, and beating every province in his four-year-stay, he was busy honing his batting skills under an Australian legend, Justin Langer at the Scarborough Cricket Club in the outskirts of Perth. By then Langer had retired and embarked into coaching duties. But intermittently, he would drop by and play premierships games. "In my first year playing alongside Justin we won a premiership. That was pretty special, just being able to share a dressing room with him. He's been a lot of help to me. He used to share a lot of experience about his playing days, used to tell me that batting is a lot about mental strength and really made us more ambitious," he said in that interview. It was from Langer that he perhaps learned to pace his innings. The Australian would begin warily, ducking and weaving from punches, before he would unleash a flurry of counterpunches at his opponent. Mitchell, against England, began cautiously, before accelerating in scintillating fashion. Three years later, his father joined a club in Johannesburg, but he didn't tag along with him, but went back home to chart his career for the country. By that time, his new-balls skills too had improved. "I bowl medium-pacers, with a bit of out-swing, nothing too flash." Of late, he has looked to crank up pace, and believes he has succeeded. "I think I'm quick but no-one else does," he said in a press conference. Some of the Indian batsmen who toured New Zealand in 2020 would remember the venom of his out-swing during a warm-up game in Hamilton. In the second innings, he devoured Prithvi Shaw, Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant. Fortunately, his father was not fussy about him picking cricket over rugby. Rather, he only encouraged him and used to play driveway cricket with him. "He's useless at cricket. I remember playing him when I was about 10-years-old in the backyard and



I had him covered even then. He loves his cricket and he's a massive supporter to me and my sister, but at the same time he's just a normal dad. He gives you a bit of stick and it's good fun," he recollected in a conversation with Waikato Radio. He, though, keeps his dad's All Blacks jumper next to his first Black Caps' one. "Both are special to me," he said. But he is such a fan of his father that he supported England in the Rugby World Cup semifinals. "It's a strange watch, to be fair. Your whole life you grow up supporting the All Blacks, but at the same time you want your old man to do well. At the end of the day, I wanted the old man to do well. To get a chance to win a World Cup final is pretty cool. The whole family is supporting him," he said in a press conference. There was another England connection too in 2016, to enlarge the canvas of his sporting journey, he turned up for Blackpool in the Northern Premier League, struck 762 runs at 44.82 and taking 37 wickets at 15.40 to help them to second place. But his ascent to the national team was a sweaty trek, built on patience and consistency. But when he finally got a break, at the not-so-young age of 29, he made it count, first with a Test hundred against Pakistan, coming in at No 7, before the most defining hour of his career yet, the unbeaten 72 not out in the World Cup semifinal. There is also that unflinching belief in his skills. "I will do anything to win games for my team," he once said. Like opening in a T20 game for his country in a World Cup. Only during the warm-up games did they decide on trying him as an opener. And he responded positively. "I pride myself on having the ability to adapt to whatever position I've got to do. After the initial conversation, I was just really excited to get the opportunity to play for New Zealand at a World Cup," he said in a press conference. Coach Gary Stead was bowled over by his competitiveness. "He's got a lot of really strong attributes that we like. We love his competitiveness and the way he takes on teams as well. I think sometimes you do have to be brave, and you run with what feels right at the time, and it felt right, and we've given Daryl that opportunity, and he's repaid us in spades." He said this before the semifinal, but every word is as timely and relevant. But unlike the Lord's memory, the Abu Dhabi knock is a bit of blur for Mitchell. "Obviously a bit of a whirlwind there. I can't really remember what was going on for the last half [of that] but it's nice to get the job done and move on to the big dance," he said after the game.

## Neesham's journey : From fighting depression to being New Zealand's crisis manager

New Delhi, Agency.

Luckily for him, Heath Mills, the head of player association in New Zealand cricket, and his team had been closely observing Neesham. Sometime in 2017, New Zealand's World T20 semi-final hero Jimmy Neesham was gripped by a growing sense of depression. He would wake up in the mornings of games, open the shades of his room, and would hope for rain. "Hoping it was raining is not the ideal way to be starting a day of cricket," he said. He decided to quit the game. Luckily for him, Heath Mills, the head of player association in New Zealand cricket, and his team had been closely observing Neesham. Mills has seen talented players like Jesse Ryder and others struggling with mental-health issues in the past and is particularly sensitive to spotting signs. "I had observed him and suspected that he was struggling mentally. I got in touch with him and we started talking," Mills tells The Indian Express, hours after Neesham's thrilling heroics that helped New Zealand beat England in the T20 world cup semifinal. The situation got worse after couple more weeks and Neesham got on a phone call with Mills to tell him that he was quitting the game. "He was struggling to cope, and it had all got a bit too much for him. The stress of the sport and combined with his personal well-being had grown too severe. He felt like giving up the game would be the best way out," Mills says. But Mills had another suggestion. "I told him why don't you just step away from the game for a while. A short break. This isn't the time to take any drastic decisions. Come back after a few weeks, and then let's see how we feel in 4 to 5 weeks. We were able to do that. He told me how he was feeling about the game and we decided to take a break. "He had enough of cricket and wasn't in good space at all. I managed to convince him that quitting wasn't the best decision



now. Sometimes, the thing is well-meaning people close to players tell them to work harder, keep playing and things will work through. Often its the worst advice. Sometimes, it's best to get away from that environment. I always encourage players to do that." Neesham agreed and went to see a psychologist Paula Dennan in Auckland. "I think I got to the point where I needed to have a full overhaul of the way I was approaching the game and she facilitated that," he has said in the past. When he came back, Mills told him to take one game at a time. "The transformation was quick. I remember there were couple of games where I could sense that he was enjoying cricket. That's half the battle. Once he had break, he improved quickly." On his twitter feed, Neesham can come as a witty cool persona, wise-cracking his way through to people's hearts. "Some people find it difficult to reconcile how such a person can be hit by depression. But if there is one thing I know for sure now is that you never know about someone. What's their own battles and turmoil may be. What you perceive you see from the TV or social media, it may be quite different. I never judge now. Just because somebody is doing well in life or have a persona that seems to suggest

they are doing well, doesn't mean anything. Especially in a high-profile environments as sport. We all have troubles in our lives and players such as Neesham are no different to anyone else." There have been numerous cases of depression in cricket and talks about bubble fatigue too are taking place. Mills feels that the situation is getting better in international cricket with reference to how it acknowledges depression in sport. "I think we are getting better. There are number of teams and player associations in a few countries who are working well with their cricket teams and high-performance programmes like in New Zealand. There is a greater awareness about personal wellbeing as important as your cricket. However I would say that our environment is increasingly challenging for international players. The Indian team have been on the road whole time, now with bubbles and stuff. It's very hard to maintain a normal healthy lifestyle. You are away 11 months from the family, your comfort places, and you are being critiqued every day almost. We are putting players in great stress. We have to be careful and something definitely needs to be done about the scheduling," says Mills.

## Haryana withholds Rs 1.5 crore award money of Para Asian Games silver medallist after controversy over residential proof

Chandigarh, Agency.

The Haryana sports authorities have put on hold the Rs. 1.5 crore award money of a Para Asian Games silver medallist after a controversy erupted over his residential address proof. An RTI activist, PP Kapoor, on Wednesday also lodged a police complaint against the swimmer, Swapnil Sanjay Patil, for trying to get the award money from Haryana government on the basis of "fake documents". The complaint claimed that the sportsperson belongs to a different state. A senior officer of Haryana sports department on Wednesday told The Indian Express: "We will not release the award money till the issue of his domicile is cleared by the authorities of Karnal. We have put the award money on hold after receiving several complaints against the swimmer over his domicile." Karnal SP Ganga Ram Punia said they will examine the matter after receiving a formal complaint. As per the policy of Haryana government, a sum of Rs 3 crore is given to the gold medallist in Para Asian Games, with Rs 2 crore being given to silver medallists. According to the RTI activist Kapoor, Patil had won a silver medal in swimming in Para Asian Games held in Jakarta (Indonesia) in 2018. As per the official documents accessed by The Indian Express, Patil submitted an application to the Haryana Sports and Youth Affairs Department for grant of the cash award while submitting a Haryana Resident Certificate, which was issued by Karnal Tehsildar on August 29, 2018.

## 'Job finished? I don't think so': New Zealand's Jimmy Neesham on not celebrating semifinal win

New Delhi, Agency.

Neesham, who thrashed 27 runs off 11 balls to help them reach their first world T20 final, sat with arms crossed and a sphinx-like expression as team mates leapt to their feet and punched the air after the five-wicket win was sealed. As New Zealand celebrated wildly upon beating England in the T20 World Cup semi-final on Wednesday, all-rounder James Neesham gave a quiet reminder of the side's determination to erase past heartbreaks by winning the decider. Neesham, who thrashed 27 runs off 11 balls to help them reach their first world T20 final, sat with arms crossed and a sphinx-like expression as team mates leapt to their feet and punched the air after the five-wicket win was sealed. A photo of the moment went viral on social media and Neesham re-tweeted it with the caption: "Job finished? I don't think so." Long after players and officials walked off the turf at Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium, Neesham was still sitting on the sidelines, staring out into space. The team's batting coach Luke Ronchi was impressed with his reserve. "It's always nice winning semi-finals and getting into finals, isn't it?" he told reporters. "But all that means is you have another game left." New Zealand will meet either Australia or Pakistan,



who play later on Thursday, in Sunday's final. For a country of five million people, the "Black Caps" have long punched above their weight in cricket and captured the inaugural World Test Championship in June by beating Virat Kohli's India. Success in the biggest showpieces of short format cricket has proved elusive, however. New Zealand reached the final of the last two 50-over World Cups, losing to England by a technicality in the 2019 classic,

four years after being well-beaten by Australia in the 2015 decider. After losing the 2019 final on boundary-count, the since abandoned method of determining the champion after a tied "Super Over", Neesham captured New Zealand's 2019 heartbreak on Twitter, saying: "Kids, don't take up sport. Take up baking or something. Die at 60 really fat and happy." Two years later, New Zealand and Neesham have another chance at redemption.

## Andy Murray beats top seed Sinner to reach Stockholm quarterfinals

New Delhi, Agency.

Andy Murray has defeated top-seeded Jannik Sinner 7-6 (4), 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals of the Stockholm Open. Andy Murray defeated top-seeded Jannik Sinner 7-6 (4), 6-3 on Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the Stockholm Open. It was Murray's second victory over a top-10 opponent in the past two weeks after the three-time Grand Slam champion, who has had two hip surgeries, beat Hubert Hurkacz in Vienna. Murray broke the 20-year-old Italian, who is ranked 10th, twice in the second set on his way to victory. In the opener, he took his first set point after having saved the only break point. "It's probably my best win this season," said the 34-year-old Murray, a former world No. 1. The Briton has reached just his second ATP Tour quarterfinals in the last two years. "Obviously, if I want to move back up the rankings and have good runs in tournaments again, I need to win these matches," said Murray, who is ranked 143rd. "I want to have a deep run here." Murray said he's trusting his instincts more, rather than rushing to try to finish points. "I've said in the last few weeks, it's coming. I don't know if it will be this week or at the beginning of next year, but I'm going to be pushing and getting deep in tournaments again," he said. He next faces Tommy Paul, who upset doubles partner and fifth-seeded Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-4. Earlier, Denis Shapovalov finally got to launch the defense of his Stockholm title from 2019, beating qualifier Andrea Vavassori 7-6 (1), 6-1 to reach the quarterfinals. The 22-year-old Canadian has had to wait two years to defend the only ATP title he has won in his short career, with the 2020 edition canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. "It felt amazing to be back here," the third-seeded Shapovalov said after breaking Vavassori's serve three times in the last 16. Shapovalov, ranked No. 18, will next play Arthur Rinderknech after the Frenchman's 6-4, 6-1 win over Jozef Kovalik. Rinderknech had advanced to the last 16 after his first-round opponent, sixth-seeded Alexander Bublik, retired with an injury.



**This monsoon, stay fit and healthy with these effective tips**



**New Delhi, Agency.**

The monsoon season brings with it beautiful weather, rains and delicious snacks. But it is also accompanied by a host of diseases like dengue, chikungunya, malaria, cholera, typhoid, diarrhoea, viral fever and common cold and flu. According to the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the apex food regulator of India under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, "The risk of diseases increase during monsoon." "During rains, the chances of food-borne illnesses increase," it added. With the added risk of COVID-19, it becomes extremely important to be mindful of one's health. As such, FSSAI shared a video on its official Twitter handle asking people to keep the following things in mind to protect themselves from falling sick during the ongoing rainy season.

**Monkey B virus : Know more about the symptoms, prevention and cure**

**New Delhi, Agency.**

As the world continues to battle the Covid-19 pandemic, a new viral infection has claimed its first life in China. According to reports, a 53-year-old veterinary surgeon contracted the Monkey B virus in March this year and eventually succumbed to it in May. According to PTI, "A Beijing-based veterinarian who was confirmed as China's first human infection case with Monkey B virus (BV) has died, amid rising concerns." The report quoting Global Times and citing English Platform of Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention further added that the vet "showed early-onset symptoms of nausea and vomiting, a month after he dissected two dead monkeys in early March." To understand more, we reached out to experts who explained its transmission pattern, symptoms, treatment and people who may be at risk of getting infected by it. "Monkey B virus is a very rare viral infection and is one of the groups of herpes virus. It is traditionally found in an ancient variety of monkeys like



macaques, chimpanzees and capuchin," Dr Charu Dutt Arora, consultant home care, Covid expert and medical services at Asian Institute of Medical Sciences, said. Agreed Dr Bela Sharma, additional director, internal medicine at Fortis Memorial Research Institute who said that "it is not a common virus and is not very dangerous either." She added that it is "a zoonotic virus that spreads mainly to animals and rarely infects humans". According to Dr Arora, since 1932, only around 60-80 cases of Monkey B virus have

been reported in the world. Experts said the virus essentially spreads through droplet infection when there is an exchange of bodily fluids, mainly saliva, urine, blood and certain brain fluids from the monkey. "No human-to-human transmission of the virus has been reported so far," Dr Arora told indianexpress.com. People who are at risk are those who may get bit or scratched from monkeys, like veterinary doctors, plumbers, construction site workers, labourers and people who work in the jungles, said the experts.

- \*Body pain
  - \*Muscle pain
  - \*Nasal blockage
  - \*Runny nose
  - \*Watery eyes
  - \*Low-grade temperature
- "When the virus attaches itself to the brain and spinal cord, patients start experiencing neurological symptoms like difficulty in memory, muscle coordination, muscle movements and fogging of the brain. Sometimes, this leads to encephalitis or brain swelling that could be fatal," the doctors said. According to CDC, a person may start showing symptoms "within one month of being exposed to a monkey with B virus infection, but could appear as little as three to seven days." "Fluid therapy is the only treatment for Monkey B virus," said Dr Arora who added that in case a person has had any contact with a monkey or has been bitten or scratched, they should continuously wash the area with soap, detergent or iodine for a minimum of 15 minutes.

**Work from home and spondylitis: All you need to know**



**New Delhi, Agency.**

Also, 'spondylitis' and 'spondylosis' are sometimes confused with one another since they sound similar and share many symptoms. However, they are separate conditions with important differences. Owing to the current Covid-19 pandemic, people have been compelled to work from home. But while the work came home, the workstation did not; forcing many to work on not very ideal workstations like sofa, couches and even bed. "These sitting areas lead to bad posture further exacerbating the degenerative changes or wear and tear. You end up slouching, rounding up your shoulders putting your head forward," said Dr Sheetal Rane, head-physiotherapy at Bhatia Hospital Mumbai. Long hours of sitting also increases pressure on intervertebral discs. "This eventually leads to undue strain on the tissues which may result in chronic back and neck pain including spondylitis," she mentioned. The terms 'spondylitis' and 'spondylosis' are sometimes confused with one another since they sound similar and share many symptoms. However, they are separate conditions with important differences. Spondylitis is an inflammatory condition caused by the immune system acting against the joints and other soft tissues, whereas spondylosis or spinal osteoarthritis is not inflammatory and is caused by normal "wear and tear" or as part of ageing process. "Spondylosis is common and becomes increasingly prevalent with age. Wear and tear are a normal and quite common. It usually goes unnoticed as the body's soft tissue recovery or repair happens simultaneously. However, as the wear and tear outrun the soft tissue recovery process, symptoms start presenting. Previous injuries, bad posture may exacerbate or accelerate these degenerative changes," said Dr Rane. The most common symptom that a person presents is pain and stiffness. You may also get muscle spasms and weakness. The symptoms varies according to the severity and location of the spondylitis. "In significant measure, it can cause pressure on the surrounding neural structures and cause symptoms like numbness, tingling, pain that radiates down the arm or leg and weakness of the muscles," Dr Rane shared.

**Prepare your workstation**

A comfortable chair with adjustable height is preferable. Your feet should be flat on the floor and not hanging. The chair should have a back rest, with a small towel roll or pillow to support lower back. The computer screen should be placed at such level that the upper border of the screen should be at eye level and 16 to 30 inches away. Forearms should be supported.

**Breaks and stretching**

Take a break of 2 to 5 minutes every 60 minutes. Break the position you are in. Walk around. Stand during some tasks. Do stretching exercises for arms and legs during the breaks.

**Improve posture**

Consciously make an effort to improve your posture. Sit tall aligning your ears shoulder and hips in a line. Sit an inch taller frequently. Movement has many benefits; it relaxes tissues, lubricates joints, prevents stiffness improves circulation, reduces fatigue, and increases stamina.

**Keep fit**

Physical fitness can help you avoid and treat problems related to computer use and long hours of sitting. It improves strength endurance and flexibility. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends minimum of 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week for better cardiac health. It also helps to keep weight gain in check. Some of these exercises could be in the form of aerobics, Zumba, cycling, swimming, skipping or even simple walking.

**Treatment**

It is a must to visit a doctor if you experience constant pain, numbness, weakness, and encounter problems that interfere with daily activities, said Dr Rane. "In acute stages of the pain, rest is beneficial, following which you can start with posture correction exercises and stretching. The physiotherapist will gradually progress your exercises to strengthening," said Dr Rane.

**Alcohol abuse is on the rise, but doctors too often fail to treat it**

**New Delhi, Agency.**

Like many people who struggle to control their drinking, Andy Mathisen tried a lot of ways to cut back. He went through an alcohol detox program, attended Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and tried using willpower to stop himself from binge drinking. But this past winter, with the stress of the pandemic increasingly weighing on him, he found himself craving beer every morning, drinking in his car and polishing off two liters of Scotch a week. Frustrated, and feeling that his health and future were in a downward spiral, Mathisen turned to the internet and discovered Ria Health, a telehealth program that uses online coaching and medication to help people rein in their drinking without necessarily giving up alcohol entirely. After signing up for the service in March, he received coaching and was given a prescription for naltrexone, a medication that diminishes cravings and blunts the buzz from alcohol. The program accepts some insurance and charges \$350 a month for a one-year commitment for people who pay out of pocket. Since he started using it, Mathisen has reduced his drinking substantially, limiting himself to just one or two drinks a couple days a week. "My alcohol consumption has dropped tremendously," said Mathisen, 70, a retired telecommunications manager who lives in central New Jersey. "It's no longer controlling my life."

Mathisen is one of the roughly 17 million Americans who grapple with alcoholism, the colloquial term for alcohol use disorder, a problem that was exacerbated this past year as the pandemic pushed many anxious and isolated people to drink to excess. The National Institutes of Health defines the disorder as "a medical condition characterized by an impaired ability to stop or control alcohol use despite adverse social, occupational or health consequences." Yet despite how prevalent it is, most people who have the disorder do not receive treatment for it, even when they disclose their drinking problem to their primary care doctor or another health care professional. Last month, a nationwide study by researchers at the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis found that about 80 per cent of people who met the criteria for alcohol use disorder had visited a doctor, hospital or medical clinic for a variety of reasons in the previous year. Roughly



70 per cent of those people were asked about their alcohol intake. Yet just 1 in 10 were encouraged to cut back on their drinking by a health professional, and only 6 per cent received any form of treatment. Alcohol abuse can be driven by a complex array of factors, including stress, depression and anxiety, as well as a person's genetics, family history and socioeconomic circumstances. Many people kick their heavy drinking habit on their own or through self-help programs like Alcoholics Anonymous or SMART Recovery. But relapse rates are notoriously high. Research suggests that among all the people with alcohol use disorder who try to quit drinking every year, just 25 per cent are able to successfully reduce their alcohol intake long-term. While there is no silver bullet for alcohol use disorder, several medications have been approved to treat it, including pills like acamprosate and disulfiram, as well as oral and injectable forms of naltrexone. These medications can blunt cravings and reduce the urge to drink, making it easier for people to quit or cut back when combined with behavioural interventions like therapy. Yet despite their effectiveness, physicians rarely prescribe the drugs, even for people who are most likely to benefit from them, in part because many doctors are not trained to deal with addiction or educated on the medications approved to treat it. In a study published last month, scientists at the NIH found that just 1.6 per cent of the millions of Americans with alcohol use disorder had been prescribed a medication to help them control their drinking. "These are potentially life saving medications, and what we found is that even among people with a diagnosable alcohol use disorder the rate at which they are used is extremely low," said Dr. Wilson Compton, an author of the study and deputy director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The implications of this are substantial. Alcohol is one of the most

common forms of substance abuse and a leading cause of preventable deaths and disease, killing almost 100,000 Americans annually and contributing to millions of cancers, car accidents, heart attacks and other ailments. It is also a significant cause of workplace accidents and lost work productivity, as well as a driver of frayed family and personal relationships. Yet for a variety of reasons, people who need treatment rarely get it from their physicians. Some doctors buy into a stereotype that people who struggle with alcohol are difficult patients with an intractable condition. Many patients who sign up for services like Ria Health do so after having been turned away by doctors, said Dr. John Mendelson, a professor of clinical medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and Ria Health's chief medical officer. "We have patients who come to us because they've been fired by their doctors," he added. In other cases, doctors without a background in addiction may worry that they don't have the expertise to treat alcoholism. Or they may feel uncomfortable prescribing medications for it, even though doing so does not require special training, said Dr. Carrie Mintz, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Washington University and a co-author of the study last month that looked at nationwide treatment rates. The result is that a lot of patients end up getting referred to mental health experts or sent to rehab centers and 12-step programs like AA. "There's a stigma associated with substance use disorders, and the treatment for them has historically been outside of the health care system," Mintz said. "We think these extra steps of having to refer people out for treatment is a hindrance. We argue that treatment should take place right there at point of care when people are in the hospital or clinic." But another reason for the low rates of treatment is that problem drinkers are often in denial, said Compton at the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Studies show that most people who meet the criteria for alcohol use disorder do not feel that they need treatment for it, even when they acknowledge having all the hallmarks of the condition, like trying to cut back on alcohol to no avail, experiencing strong cravings, and continuing to drink despite it causing health and relationship problems. "People are perfectly willing to tell you about their symptoms and the difficulties they face," Compton said. "But then if you say, 'Do you think you need treatment?'"

**Covid 19 : Patients diagnosed with black fungus opt for leech therapy; all you need to know**

**New Delhi, Agency.**

The number of black fungus or mucormycosis cases in both active and recovered Covid patients has been alarming. In fact, in May this year, the centre asked states to notify black fungus as an epidemic. Meanwhile, some recovered patients diagnosed with black fungus have opted for leech therapy, an Ayurvedic treatment, after trying conventional methods for cure. An Ayurvedic practice, leech therapy is a blood purification process that is helpful in letting toxic blood out of the body. Medicinal leeches suck impure blood and release enzymes supportive in increasing immunity. Dr Aswathy Pathiyath, Ayurveda consultant, Fazlani Natures Nest, tells indianexpress.com, "Mucormycosis or black fungus is mainly affecting coronavirus patients with comorbid conditions like diabetes. It is classified into five types depending on the part affected. Among them, Disseminated Mucormycosis in the later phase and Cutaneous mucormycosis can be correlated to Dustavrana



(non-healing ulcer) and Kusta (skin disease), Visarpa (erysipelas) respectively." "In this, leech therapy is one among the best methods of treatment. This again depends on the 'prakruthi' of the person and the extent of the symptoms," the expert adds. He further says, "Along with other Ayurveda treatment principles of mucormycosis, depending upon the area affected, leech therapy may be administered. However, the main line of treatment will be Kledohara chikista and Premeahara (treatment

of diabetes and diabetic wounds and skin issues), Agnivardhaka (modalities to improve metabolism and digestion), Krimihara, Ojovardhaka (treatment of infections) and Rasayana chikitsa (rejuvenation and immunoboosting therapies)." Dr Yash Javeri, critical care, Anesthesia and Emergency Medicine, Regency Superspecialty Hospital, Lucknow, however, says, "Though the therapy might be useful for few medical conditions, there is no medical literature or evidence to support the use of leech therapy in mucormycosis. We need to select therapies very carefully." Dr Amitabh Malik, ENT surgeon, Paras Healthcare, agrees that Ayurveda treatment for mucormycosis lacks scientific proof. "There is only one therapy that has been proven worldwide which is working on such patients is to surgically remove all the disease tissue and then give them amphotericin B liposomal and other anti-fungal drugs. People can have faith in anything but so far there has been no scientific evidence for this leech therapy," he says.

**Tea time fitness : Do you really need a snack with chai?**

**Japan, Agency.**

"You seriously don't always need a nashta or snack with your tea and coffee," said food therapist Dr Ria Banerjee Ankola. For a lot of us, tea time is synonymous with not just our regular cuppa but also munchies and snacks including rusks, cookies, and namkeen. However, before reaching out for an extra helping of calorie-laden snacks, it is important to ask yourself if you are really that hungry, or just want it like that? Food therapist Dr Ria Banerjee Ankola recently took to Instagram to share how people often snack unnecessarily even if they are not hungry, a common issue that leads to weight gain. "You seriously don't need a nashta or snack always with your tea and coffee," she said. Add on a snack only if you are hungry. "Otherwise give rest to your digestive system from the unnecessary eating," she mentioned. According to Dr Ria, one should focus on eating their meals right. "The human body was designed to stay active all day, eat sumptuous meals when hungry, and rest when you are tired. It's that simple," she said while sharing that she

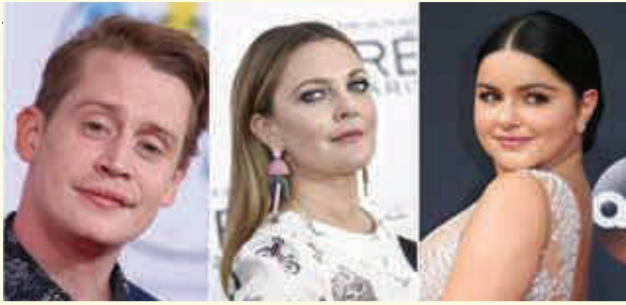


snacks, but "not everyday." "I always ask myself if I am actually hungry before I pick up a snack," she shared. When you wake up in the morning, it's okay to have 4-5 almonds and then have your tea or coffee just to avoid acidity. But even if you are fit, you seriously don't need that processed cookie or rusk with it, she added.



## Before Britney Spears, 5 Hollywood celebrities who took the legal route against their parents : Macaulay Culkin, Drew Barrymore and others

New Delhi, Agency.



Here are five American celebrities who invoked US' emancipation law. The list includes Michelle Williams, Alicia Silverstone and Ariel Winter. Pop star Britney Spears was given relief after a judge on Wednesday suspended her father Jamie Spears as her conservator. Britney has been in a conservatorship since 2008 over concerns about her mental health after breakdown and hospitalisation. A conservatorship is kind of an adult guardianship in the US that empowers a conservator to be in complete control of conservatee's career, life and finances if the latter is deemed unfit to take care of such things themselves. Britney Spears has detailed the pain and abuse she has felt during conservatorship. She told the court in June this year, "I don't want to be evaluated, to be sat in a room with people four hours a day like they did to me before," she said. Apart from Britney Spears, several other Hollywood celebrities have suffered due to bad parenting and have chosen US' emancipation law. However, not every child who goes for emancipation does so because of bad parents. Macaulay Culkin, who rose to fame with Home Alone movies, sued his parents for emancipation and \$17 million as per People magazine when he was just 16 in 1997. He claimed that his father Kit Culkin mismanaged his earnings and forced him to sleep on the couch. He told Empire last year, "It's always misconstrued, that I 'emancipated' myself from my parents. I legally took my parents' names off of my trust fund and found an executor, someone who would look over my finances, just in case anyone wanted to stick their f\*\*\*ing pinkie in the pie." Never Been Kissed and Charlie's Angels star Drew Barrymore emancipated herself at 15. Barrymore had a troubled childhood with a domineering mother and an uncaring father and was placed in rehab at the age of 13. Her mother made her stay at an institution for the mentally ill for eighteen months. The time did not appear to have improved her mental health as she attempted suicide at the age of 14, prompting the emancipation. Best known for mockumentary series Modern Family, Ariel Winter was 14 when her mother Chrisoula Workman was accused of abusing her. She was removed to a legally sanctioned guardianship under her older sister. After three years, she was emancipated. On Twitter, she had said then: "I am now officially emancipated!!! I'm really lucky I have an amazing support system and lovely people in my life who have given me the support and guidance to have been given this wonderful opportunity." Alicia Silverstone rose to fame as a teen star in the 1990s because of the erotic thriller The Crush and the music video of Aerosmith's song "Cryin". It was while filming The Crush, at 17, she filed for emancipation, but it was not due to abusive parents, but because she needed to circumvent child labour laws of California that did not allow her to work longer hours. An acclaimed actor, Michelle Williams was also emancipated not due to any trouble with her parents, but because she wanted to pursue her acting career without any legal interference over working hours due to her tender age. This paid off handsomely when she was cast in Dawson's Creek, a teen TV series that made her a popular name.

## Scarlett Johansson, Disney settle Black Widow lawsuit: 'Happy to have resolved our differences'



Los Angeles, Agency.

The settlement brought a swift end to what had begun as the first major fight between a studio and star over recent changes in rollout plans for films. Scarlett Johansson and the Walt Disney Co. on Thursday settled her lawsuit over the streaming release of Black Widow, bringing a swift end to what had begun as the first major fight between a studio and star over recent changes in rollout plans for films. Johansson filed the lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court two months ago, saying the streaming release of the Marvel movie breached her contract and deprived her of potential earnings. Know all about the case Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but the two sides released a joint statement in which they pledged to continue working together. "I am happy to have resolved our differences with Disney," said Johansson, who has played Natasha Romanoff aka Black Widow, in nine movies going back to 2010's Iron Man 2. "I'm incredibly proud of the work we've done together over the years and have greatly enjoyed my creative relationship with the team. I look forward to continuing our collaboration." Alan Bergman, chairman of Disney Studios Content, said he is "pleased that we have been able to come to a mutual agreement." "We appreciate her contributions to the Marvel Cinematic Universe and look forward to working together on a number of upcoming projects," Bergman said. The lawsuit said Johansson's contract guaranteed an exclusive theatrical release, with her potential earnings tied to the box office performance of the film. But as it has with other recent releases since the coronavirus

■ **Scarlett Johansson and the Walt Disney Co. on Thursday settled her lawsuit over the streaming release of Black Widow, bringing a swift end to what had begun as the first major fight between a studio and star over recent changes in rollout plans for films. Johansson filed the lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court two months ago, saying the streaming release of the Marvel movie breached her contract and deprived her of potential earnings.**

pandemic began, Disney released the film simultaneously in theaters and through its streaming service Disney+ for a \$30 rental. The rhetoric of the lawsuit and Disney's response suggested a long and ugly battle was ahead. "In the months leading up to this lawsuit, Ms. Johansson gave Disney and Marvel every opportunity to right their wrong and make good on Marvel's promise," the lawsuit said. "Disney intentionally induced Marvel's breach of the Agreement, without justification, in order to prevent Ms. Johansson from realizing the full benefit of her bargain with Marvel." Disney at the time said the lawsuit had "no merit whatsoever," adding that it was "especially sad and distressing in its callous disregard for the horrific and prolonged global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic." Disney said the changed release plan "significantly enhanced her ability to earn additional compensation on top of the \$20M she has received to date." Delayed more than a year because of COVID-19, Black Widow debuted to a what was then a pandemic-best of \$80 million in North America and \$78 million from international theaters on July 9. But theatrical grosses declined sharply after that. In its second weekend in release, the National Association of Theater Owners issued a rare statement criticizing the strategy. Revised hybrid release strategies have occasionally led to public spats between stars, filmmakers and financiers who are unhappy with potential lost revenues and their lack of say in such strategies. But none were as big or as public as Johansson's lawsuit.

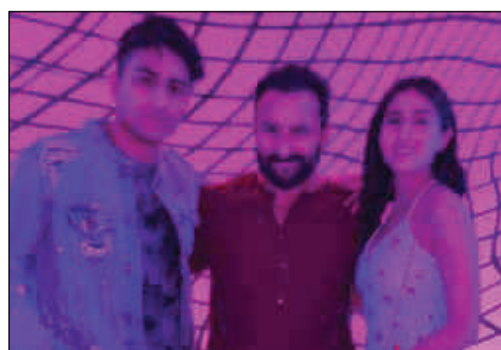
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## Saif Ali Khan confirms son Ibrahim's entry in Bollywood : 'He is assisting Karan Johar'

New Delhi, Agency.

Saif Ali Khan, however, did not reveal the name of the said movie. Both Sara and Ibrahim are Saif's children with his first wife Amrita Singh. He has two sons, Taimur and Jeh, with wife Kareena Kapoor. Saif Ali Khan has confirmed that his son Ibrahim is the latest member of the family to become a part of Bollywood. He said that he is assisting Karan Johar on a movie. He, however, did not reveal the name of the said movie. While speaking to TV host and presenter Siddharth Kannan for his YouTube channel, Saif was asked about his equation with his kids. He answered, "They are all different. Ibrahim is assisting on a Karan Johar movie and sharing that, and talking about what his ideas and dreams are. Sara is older and we have a very different equation." Sara is already deep into the film industry, with many films to her name. She debuted in 2018 with romance-disaster movie Kedarnath opposite late Sushant Singh Rajput.



She has also been a part of Simmba, Love Aaj Kal, and Coolie No. 1. Next, she will be seen in Atrangi Re. Both Sara and Ibrahim are Saif's children with his first wife Amrita Singh. He also has two sons with Kareena Kapoor: Taimur and Jeh. Talking about his advice to his children, Saif told indianexpress.com, "There are so many people around you - big stars and great actors,

learn from all of them. Try to do good things. It's easier said than done. Make mistakes, for sure. But the bottomline is, you have to contribute something to the world we live in, and we've chosen to contribute entertainment. So make sure it's entertaining." Saif, meanwhile, was last seen in Pavan Kirpalani's horror comedy Bhoot Police. The film also starred Arjun Kapoor, Jacqueline Fernandez, Yami Gautam and Javed Jaffrey in significant roles. The Indian Express film critic Shubra Gupta gave the film a positive review, singling out Saif's performance in the movie for praise. Her 2.5 star review read, "But while it stays in the let's-make-fun-of-ghosts zone, it really is funny. Especially when Saif is on song, which is quite often: he is having a blast, and makes sure we do, too. Arjun Kapoor fits the part too, as do the girls. What's truly a saving grace is that nothing gets too dark. And no one takes themselves seriously at all, even if you feel like ruffling Ms Fernandez's perfect blowout: there's a ghost in front of her!"

## Sunny Kaushal on comparison with brother Vicky Kaushal : 'We have different journeys'

Mumbai, Agency.



Sunny Kaushal and Radhika Madan's Shiddat will stream on Disney+ Hotstar from October 1. The actor speaks about love and constant comparisons with brother Vicky Kaushal ahead of release. Vicky Kaushal and brother Sunny Kaushal both started their Bollywood journey around the same time and continue to go strong. As Vicky enjoys stardom after hits such as Uri and Raazi, Sunny is ready with his next release Netflix film Shiddat. In an interview with indianexpress.com, Sunny Kaushal opens up about how it is to face constant scrutiny and comparison with Vicky, his journey in films, and how preparing for Shiddat was an internal process. Sunny is coming out with a film after two years; his last release was Bhangra Pa Le (2019). Talking about how Shiddat happened, he says, "Shiddat happened to me after Gold. I had auditioned a couple of times for the film after meeting Dinesh Vijan and Kunal Deshmukh, and it worked out. When I heard the story of the film, I knew I wanted to do the film. The film's perspective about love is very different, and yet Kunal has managed to show it in a very simple manner. Radhika (Madan), Mohit (Raina) and I met up for a few readings and started shooting in November 2019." He says Shiddat forced him to look at love with a different lens. "I had to prepare in a way for Shiddat that I had never done before. It was internal for me. I had to think the way people think today because my character in the film is street-smart, and cool and yet a simple guy at heart. If you love someone, there shouldn't be any complications. It is about having courage and passion to live with the person you love. And that's what the film is about, how people do so many things for whatever their definition of love is. I believe in the power of love, and I will go all out for it."